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WAYNE-WESTLAND
OBSERVER

THURSDAY 03.31.16 || HOMETOWNLIFE.COM || PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Two facing charges in Norwayne fire

LeAnne Rogers
 Staff Writer

Two people are facing criminal charges in connection with an arson fire at a Westland home. Westland resident Westley Simmons, 47, was arraigned Tuesday in Westland 18th District Court on charges of second-degree arson, two counts of animals-killing torturing over two cats that died inside the home and being an habit-

ual offender with three or more prior felonies. Bond was set at \$500,000 cash or surety.

Carolyn Hennison, 44, of Taylor, was also arraigned Tuesday on a charge of being an accessory after the fact to a felony. Her bond was set at \$10,000/ten percent. Not guilty pleas were entered for



Simmons



Henison

both and probable cause hearings were set for April 7.

The fire was reported at 7:35 p.m. at 32612 Montmorency Court in Norwayne.

"The house is occupied but no one was home. We went out today to dig it out," Wayne-Westland Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Kelly Eggers said Monday.

"We have ruled out an electrical fire. The floor was consistent with possible pour patterns. We've sent samples to the Michigan State Police for analysis."

Another indication of arson, Eggers said, was how rapidly the fire spread and the amount of damage that resulted. He noted firefighters arrived within five minutes of being called about smoke to find flames coming out a rear

See FIRE, Page A2



Gospel singer Kirk Franklin talks with radio host Randy Myles, who was broadcasting live from the Westland St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store.

Nankin Transit chief touts upgrades

Julie Brown
 Staff Writer

James Ridener is getting the word out on a new and improved Nankin Transit.

The curb-to-curb service for those age 55 and up and disabled people is for Garden City, Inkster, Wayne and Westland. It began in 1976. Ridener, former Westland police chief, has headed up Nankin Transit the past two years.

"If you were riding with me, you were riding in handcuffs," he joked with Westland Rotarians at a March 17 Joy Manor luncheon, referencing his early days with Nankin Transit learning the ropes.

"It's still more economical than taking a taxi cab, Uber," Ridener said. It now operates 10 new buses, which will mark one year on the road in July, all with wheelchair lifts. Cost is \$3 for a one-way ride.

Nankin Transit buses will pick up residents at home and take them anywhere within the cities of Garden City, Inkster, Wayne and Westland and up to one mile outside of those boundaries. It also serves St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia and Beaumont/Oakwood Main in Dearborn.

Canton had started with the service and later opted out, Ridener noted. Many residents use the service for jobs, medical appointments and even entertainment like movies.

Rides can now be scheduled up to 10 days in advance. "That's some anxiety we wanted to try to take away," he said of seniors with medical appointments to keep.

When Ridener arrived, a "scheduling board" was still used and technology needed to be incorporated. He noted about half a year to right the ship on finances, which included a fare hike, a look at expenses such as fuel and buses not being in use, health cost relief from the union, and a millage.

The added software, with drivers now also using tablets, means buses are used more efficiently, Ridener said. "The system serves an underserved population," he said, citing his 83-year-old father who faces surgery as an example.

"How do you get around when you don't have that?" Ridener asked of car use.

He estimated Nankin Transit operates now at 70 percent capacity so could accommodate more users, such as a



Ridener

See TRANSIT, Page A2

Singer visits for store water drive

An award-winning Gospel singer dropped in to lend a hand during a Good Friday water drive to benefit Flint residents at a Westland charity store.

Seven-time Grammy winner Kirk Franklin visited the St Vincent de Paul Thrift Store and Donation Center on Wayne Road and Hunter. It's one of 11 thrift stores operated by St. Vincent de Paul in southeast Michigan.

Praise 102.7 host Randy Myles broadcast live during the event at the store. St. Vincent de Paul staff collected water donations along with donated toiletry supplies.

For more than 130 years, St. Vincent de Paul has provided vital services in southeast Michigan, including food, shelter, medical and dental care, utility assistance, disaster relief and emergency support. St. Vincent de Paul also provides outreach programs to the youth and elderly, including Camp Iza-nami and the Matching Nutrition Center.



TOM BEAUDOIN

Community activist Tarence Wheeler and radio host Randy Myles draw a name for the Kirk Franklin concert.



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Spring means compost collection

The calendar may say it is spring, but weather reports call for possible snow over the weekend. But the official start of spring has arrived as weekly compost resumes in Wayne and Westland. The curbside collection of yard waste resumes Friday, April 1, in Wayne, and Monday, April 4, in Westland. Yard waste is collected on regular trash collection days and will continue through the week of Dec. 15. Yard waste is grass clippings, leaves, very small twigs, potting soil, garden fruits and vegetables and old flowers. Yard waste cannot be placed in plastic bags; it can go in

trash cans labeled "yard waste" or kraft paper yard waste bags. Compost in trash containers should not weigh more than 50 pounds. » Separate yard waste from regular trash by about 10 feet in Wayne, four feet in Westland. » Mark the yard waste containers with "yard waste" stickers. The stickers are available at city hall or the Department of Public Works. » Branches need to be cut into three-foot lengths and tied into bundles that weigh no more than 50 pounds each.

CORRECTION

A story in the Sunday, March 27, Observer should have said the pastor at St. Robert Bellarmine is the Rev. Richard Leliaert and that Cabrini High School is located in Allen Park.

WESTLAND OBSERVER

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Plymouth Township teen gets prison in murder plot

Robert Allen
Michigan.com

At an age when most kids are thinking about graduating from high school and heading to college, Roksana Sikorski only has prison to look forward to for the next 10-20 years of her life. While her former classmates in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district are enjoying spring break this week, the waifish 17-year-old sat Monday trembling in a chair in the middle of a Wayne County courtroom, handcuffed and attired in an orange jail jumpsuit, waiting to hear the judge pronounce his sentence. Sikorski was only 15 in October 2014, when she plotted with an adult boyfriend to kill her family inside their Plymouth Township home in what the county prosecutor called a "truly haunting" plan. She got a fish fillet knife, sneaked into her 12-year-old brother's room, put her hand over his mouth and



Sikorski

put a knife to his throat. As he reacted, the knife cut deep into his flesh. The boy screamed, alerting the rest of the family. Sikorski dropped the knife and fled outside, where her then 23-year-old boyfriend — who police say had been texting her instructions on how to carry out the killings — was waiting. They were soon arrested. Despite being the target of the plot, Laurene and Jeff Sikorski have stood firmly behind their daughter from the start, even hiring an attorney to represent her. They said the teen — who stands 4-foot-8 and weighs 95 pounds — suffered from depression and was manipulated by her older boyfriend. Sikorski's parents adopted her and two siblings from Poland more than a decade ago after the children endured an abusive early childhood. They say her co-defendant, Michael Rivera, now 24, coerced her into the conspiracy, and they blame law enforcement for not arresting him sooner after he had illegal sex with her. "She's in desperate need of continued psychological help," Laurene Sikorski told the court Monday before sentencing. "She is still fragile and an adult prison would shatter her delicate world. How will sentencing her as an adult help her? Is this justice?" Roksana Sikorski took a plea deal Feb. 22 to one

count of assault with intent to murder in exchange for six other felony counts getting dropped. Rivera is serving a life sentence after being convicted by jury on all seven counts. Sikorski tearfully apologized to her family Monday "for not being the daughter they wished I would be. And I promise that I will get better, no matter what happens." Circuit Judge James Callahan said this a case of a young person "swayed by an older person," who previously had victimized her with "inappropriate sexual behavior." He said that given the investigation's findings, she may have had second thoughts, as the injury sustained by her brother appears to have been "more of his being aroused ... from her initial action" than from her cutting into him. "This is truly an unfortunate situation," Callahan said, as he sentenced her to 10-20 years in prison.

FIRE

Continued from Page A1

window. The occupant of the home arrived home to find her former stepfather, 47, unexpectedly at the home. The man and the occupant's mother, who owns the home as a rental property, were reported to have been recently divorced.

"It is a rental property and the owner had been letting her daughter and son stay at the home," Eggers said. "The former stepfather had occasionally stayed at the home also in the past." The occupant had arrived home a minute or two before she called 911 to report the fire, Eggers said, and began questioning the former stepfather about why he was at the home Saturday night.

"He said he was there to collect a television that belonged to him. He was very insistent that she leave with him now," Eggers said. "Then he ran down the driveway, jumped into his car and drove off." At that point, he said that the woman noticed smoke and called 911, never having gone inside the house. No injuries were reported. "There was significant

damage to the house. There was minor structural damage but the interior and contents were destroyed with fire, smoke and water damage," Eggers said. Simmons was arrested Sunday in Standish and subsequently brought back in custody by Westland Police.

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TRANSIT

Continued from Page A1

young person in his 20s with a short-term disability of broken legs. Nan-

kin Transit's office has moved into the Jefferson Barns Community Vitality Center in Westland's Norwayne community. Nankin Transit operates 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday,

other than major holidays and the week between Christmas and New Year's Day. Its business office is at 734-729-2720, the website www.nankintransit.com. Ridener said the

SMART regional bus system contributes, as do the communities served by Nankin Transit. jcbrown@hometownlife.com
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Local residents among DPS principals charged

Tresa Baldas, Katrease Stafford, Kathleen Gray and Ann Zaniewski
Michigan.com

In its latest crackdown on school corruption in Detroit, the federal government Tuesday dropped a legal bomb on 12 current and former principals, one administrator and a vendor — all of them charged with running a nearly \$1 million bribery and kickback scheme involving school supplies that were rarely ever delivered.

At the heart of the alleged scheme is businessman Norman Shy, 74, of Franklin, who is accused of paying \$908,500 in kickbacks and bribes to at least 12 Detroit Public School principals who used him as a school supply vendor in exchange for money — some for as little as \$4,000, another for \$324,000. He secretly did this for 13 years, scamming school after school

to the tune of \$2.7 million with the help of principals who benefited along the way, prosecutors allege.

Among others charged are Josette Buendia, 50, of Garden City, principal at Bennett Elementary School, charged with accepting \$45,775 in kickbacks from Shy; and Tia Von Moore-Patton, 46, of Farmington Hills, principal of Jerry White Center High School, charged with accepting \$4,000 in kickbacks from Shy.

The news of the corruption case comes at a critical time as the state grapples with fixing the finances of the struggling Detroit district, the largest school system in Michigan. DPS has been under the control of a state-appointed emergency manager since 2009 and has accumulated an operating deficit of at least \$515 million.

Just last week, the Legislature passed \$48.7



U.S. Attorney Barbara McQuade discusses corruption in Detroit Public Schools.

TRESA BALDAS | MICHIGAN.COM

million in emergency funding to ensure that DPS doesn't run out of cash early next month, as well as put the district under the authority of a financial review commission to oversee the district's finances

"This is exactly why House Republicans were so adamant that strong fiscal oversight be a prerequisite to any addi-

tional state funding for Detroit's corrupt and broken school administration," Speaker of the House Kevin Cotter, R-Mt. Pleasant, said in a news release Tuesday. "And it is why we will continue to insist that strong financial and academic reforms be a part of any long-term solution to decades of DPS failures."

U.S. Attorney Barbara McQuade announced the sweeping charges at a news conference Tuesday afternoon, calling the case "a punch in the gut."

McQuade stressed that the charges have nothing to do with DPS's existing financial troubles, or the political debate surrounding whether the state should help the city's struggling school system.

"Public corruption never comes at a good time," McQuade said. "This case is not about DPS. It is not about emergency managers. It is about these 14 individuals who breached their trust."

McQuade noted that the charges stem from a two-year-old audit of the Education Achievement Authority, a state-formed agency that was supposed to oversee and help Detroit's most troubled schools. That audit raised red flags, including one that led to the

eventual indictment of former principal Kenyetta Wilbourn Snapp, who pleaded guilty to bribery two months ago and agreed to cooperate with the government in its prosecution against others.

The Free Press attempted to contact attorneys for all 14 defendants. Only one offered to comment. Most were unavailable; two declined comment, saying it was too premature to discuss the case.

McQuade said DPS and the defendants are cooperating. They were all charged in a document known as an "information," which is similar to an indictment, but does not involve a grand jury. Prosecutors often bring charges by way of an information in cases where the government believes a plea deal will be reached. McQuade would not comment on any prospective plea deals in this case.

Volunteer youth mentors needed

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

A few good people are needed to volunteer to spend an hour or two each week with a youngster who needs some support and direction.

"I like the mentors to come from different backgrounds and experience. We need people who are reliable, consistent and a good listener," Westland Youth Assistance Director Paul Motz said. "They're not necessarily giving kids an-

swers, but helping them navigate the decision-making process."

Westland Youth Assistance is holding a mentor training session over three days: 5:30-9 p.m. Friday, April 8, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 9, and 5:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, April 12.

"We have a nice group signed up, but I would like to have a few slots I would like to fill," Motz said. "It's interactive training. They learn a lot more about our program and that kids that we deal with and support."

During the training, Motz said some youngsters who have been mentored previously and already trained mentors will share their experiences.

Currently, 13 youngsters are being mentored, with another 14 kids on a waiting list for a mentor. Most of the youngsters waiting for a mentor are girls, Motz said, in part likely due to a greater willingness by girls to talk about their lives.

"None of us are perfect, that's for sure. We need people who are accepting of youths," Motz said.

Among the youngsters served by Youth Assistance, Motz said 70 percent come from single-parent homes with at least 75 percent low or very low income. The mentors can help provide some additional adult guidance for the youngsters.

"Meeting with the mentors gives the kids a chance to focus on their own life, their future and goals," Motz said. "I really like it when you see the transformation after a time. The young person is more directed, happier and more confident. The mentor has a big role in that."

Anyone interested in participating in the three-day training session is asked to contact Westland Youth Assistance at 734-467-7904 by Tuesday, April 5.

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Northville actress leads in Plymouth stage show



Frank McCay is one of the actors in the "Last Roundup of the Guacamole Queens."

A Northville woman takes a lead role in "Last Roundup of the Guacamole Queens" of Better Than Ever Productions at the PARC, 650 Church, in downtown Plymouth.

Set in the small town of Sweetgum, Texas, the three Verdeen cousins, Jimmy Wyvette — played by SuzyQ Storey of Northville — Peaches, and Gaynelle decide to impress the governor of Texas with their party planning expertise by

organizing the last reunion of the old high school that's about to be torn down. But of course, in typical Jones, Hope, Wooten style, everything that can go wrong does.

Jimmy Wyvette gets herself in trouble with the law, Peaches (Denene Pollock of Ypsilanti) winds up agreeing to a date with a surprising personality and Gaynelle (Lynda Trygg of Westland) gets herself roped into a bet with her mean

old Aunt LaMerle (Ruth Butts of Canton) that could wind up changing her life forever.

The show is stage at 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, March 31 and April 1-2, and 2 p.m. Sunday, April 3. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$17 at the door.

Tickets can be purchased at betterthaneverprod.wix.com/btep or call 734-306-7883.

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Two men sought for tool theft at Lowe's store

Westland Police are requesting the public's assistance identifying two suspects wanted in connection with the theft of a large amount of construction tools from a vehicle.

On March 10, the victim arrived at the Westland Lowe's store, 6555 N Newburgh, and went inside to shop. Upon returning to his vehicle, he told police that he had discovered that it had been broken into and many of his tools had been stolen.

Upon checking surveillance tapes at the store, police obtained photos of two suspects and a vehicle that were involved in the incident.

Suspect one was described as a white male in his 30s,

approximately 5-foot-10 with a thin build, short brown hair, wearing a black Carhartt-type coat, blue jeans, and black shoes.

Suspect two was described as a white male in his 30s, approximately 5-foot-10 with a medium build, goatee, dark hair, wearing a gray hat, gray hooded sweatshirt, and blue jeans.

The suspect vehicle is described as a 2000s Chevrolet Silverado, black, extended cab, 4 door, with a silver toolbox in the bed.

Anyone who can help identify the suspects is asked to call the Westland Police Department at 734-722-9600 or Sgt. Jeff Kavanaugh at 734-467-3189.



WESTLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT
This vehicle was driven by two men wanted in connection with a shoplifting incident at Lowe's in Westland.



WESTLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT
This is one of two suspects wanted in connection with a larceny from a vehicle parked at Lowe's in Westland.



WESTLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT
This is one of two suspects wanted for breaking into a vehicle and stealing tools at the Westland Lowe's store.

WAYNE COP CALLS

Stolen vehicle

A resident in the 4100 block of Winifred told police March 22 that someone had stolen her 2014 Dodge Journey from her driveway overnight. She said the payments were current and the car was fully insured.

The owner did tell police that she had lost one set of keys several months ago, but had the second set in her possession.

Vandalism

The owner of a 1986 motor home told police March 24 that

someone had smashed a rear side window while it was parked at his home in the 4400 block of Randolph. He noted random fruits and vegetables on the ground below the smashed window.

Vehicle searched

A resident in the 4400 block of Mildred told police March 22 that overnight someone had searched his vehicle and a few unspecified items were missing.

Larceny

A resident in the 4800 block of Woodward told police March 26 that a hubcap was missing from his vehicle.

— By LeAnne Rogers

GARDEN CITY COP CALLS

Break-in

Police were called March 23 to a home in the 1600 block of Helen after the homeowner was alerted that his burglar alarm had been activated. The man said his wife and child had left approximately 45 minutes earlier.

When he arrived home, the rear door had been pried open. He said that nothing appeared to have to be missing or disturbed. The alarm company reported that someone had unsuccessfully attempted to use the key pad to disarm the alarm. The homeowner also noted that he has a large pit bull which was loose in the home.

Vandalism

A couple told police March 22 that from Feb. 22-26, they had a Roseville woman — the wife's friend — stay at their home in the 28000 block of Barton to watch their kids while they were away. The friend had been given permission to use their vehicle while she was watching the children.

Talking with the kids while they were away, the couple said they learned the woman hadn't been staying at the house. They said the woman was told she couldn't stay at the house any longer and she mentioned something was wrong with the car.

When they returned, the

husband said he found all of the dash board lights on his 2014 Volkswagen Jetta were lit. He said he took the car to the dealership, where they reported damage to the rear seat, a hole in the plastic under the seat cushion, fraying of the seat belt and a wire. There was also a bot missing on the seat belt harness.

The man told police that his kids had overheard the woman and her boyfriend talking about drugs. That led the man to conclude the vehicle was possibly damaged in effort to create a spot to hide drugs.

Vandalism

Overnight March 24, a resident in the 31000 block of Leo-

na told police that someone had smashed the rear window on her vehicle.

Fraud

On March 28, a Garden City woman told police that she attempted to file her federal income taxes Feb. 24 and was told someone had already filed using her name and Social Security number. She said she hadn't filed a police report because she wasn't getting a refund and was able to get her state refund.

The woman, who had her taxes completed at the Maplewood Community Center, said that she received a letter March 22 from a credit report service about someone at-

tempting to use her name and Social Security number to open a credit card. The application was denied.

Suspended license

» A Westland man stopped for driving with a cracked windshield March 28 was arrested for driving with a suspended license. He was cited for defective equipment and no proof of insurance.

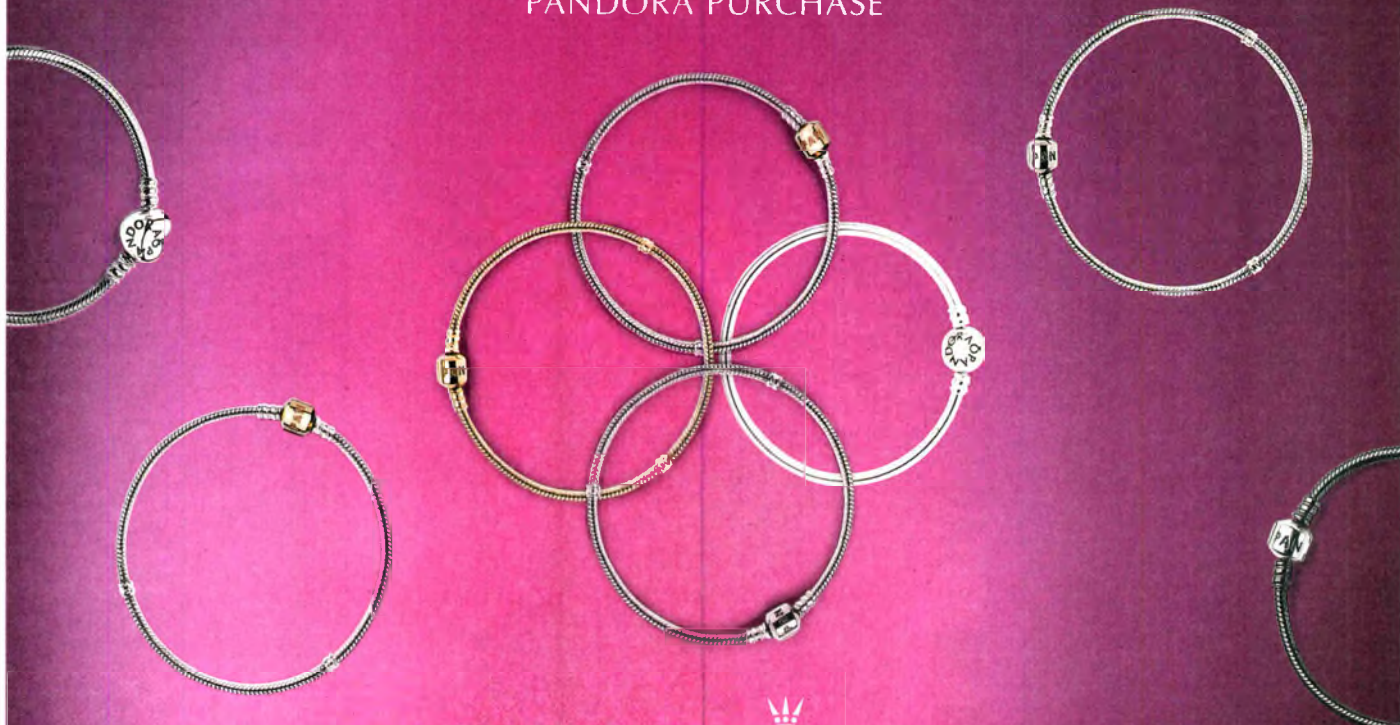
» On March 29, a Dearborn man stopped for a defective headlight was arrested for driving with two license suspensions. He also had two warrants.

— By LeAnne Rogers

MARCH 31 – APRIL 2

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FIRST robotics challenge 'like a giant community' for area high school teams

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

The Plymouth-Canton Lightning 862 robotics team was on hand to set up, tear down and inspect robots, as well as to serve as technical advisers and to keep score while other teams competed in the FIRST in Michigan District competition Saturday in Livonia.

But the Lightning 862 team will be in the spotlight this coming weekend when it competes in Troy, said Jay Obsniuk, adviser and Canton High School teacher.

Meanwhile, Novi Detroit Catholic Central High School students Mark Didonato and Keaton Mulcahy were glad to be at the FIRST in Michigan District Event, competing among 40 high school robotics teams.

"We're doing very well," said Didonato, 17, a CC senior who lives in Ann Arbor. The event ran March 24-26 at Livonia Churchill High School; early Saturday, Catholic Central was eighth of the 40 teams.

"We have a certain amount of ranking points. We still have a couple competitions left," said Didonato, who plans to study electrical engineering at Kettering University and pursue a General Motors internship.

The CC team has about 22 students and its members worked to get the FIRST program in school with sponsors and school support. "At first, there was a lot of math involved," Didonato said. "You got a lot of experience in the field."

He noted it helps with engineering study and college scholarships. Added freshman Mulcahy, a Canton resident, "I like the experience and I like how everyone works together. It's like a giant community."

Mulcahy is mulling Michigan State University for engineering and of robotics noted, "I love the hands-on." The CC team is the Shambots.

FIRST stands for For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology. For more information, go to www.firstinmichigan.org.

"I would say it's a lot more friendly than I thought it would be," Didonato said of the Churchill-based competition. "Even on the opposing team, they would help us out."

Nearby were the Hackbots of the Farmington Public Schools, from Harrison, North Farmington and Farmington high schools. Mark Skodack, a Wixom resident and their teacher and coach, and is on the staff at Farmington High.

The Hackbots have about 70 students, Skodack said, and are in their fourth year as a unified team. "This is our fourth robot," he said.

The FPS team has been to Worlds competition in St. Louis, Mo., four years ago and is striving to return. "It was a good experience," Skodack said. "It's a lot of connecting the dots with their core classes. They're in there, they're problem-solving. They're owning it. Our kids this year are taking an outstanding initiative."

The FPS team now has some college students in engineering, FPS grads who assist. Skodack noted multiple teams from pneumatics to safety.

"It's almost like a small business," he said. "A business has to be market, a business has to be safe. Six weeks to build a robot is tight for these kids. It gets their focus razor sharp."

Avery Cosier, 17, is a junior at Farmington High and a Hackbot. This is her second year on the team.

"There are so many different subgroups," Cosier said. "You get to be really creative and apply things you've learned." Her plans are biochemistry study in college for a dentistry career.

Cosier is the team brand manager, including marketing, imagery, graphics and the business plan.

In competition, remote-controlled robots, piloted by students and cheered on by fans, go head-to-head in short games on the floor of a sports arena, battling it out to earn points during a round.

Isolina Carlini is the team leader and coach for Livonia Public Schools, whose Warrior team includes Stevenson, Churchill and Franklin high schools. The Warriors have 52 kids and 31 mentors, said Car-



Wayne Memorial High School Bionic Zebras team 313 did well in this year's robotics competition. The Zebras also have a John Glenn High student.



Part of the Livonia Warriors team, Evan Zobel, Noah Downie, Zach Obsniuk and Ben Lenze before the next round of the competition last weekend.



Thurston students Raj Patel, Chad Fletcher, Tyree Gregory and Jay Pettis and coach Heather Staley pose in the "pit" as they are ready for the robotics competition at Churchill High School.



Livonia students and mentors adjust their robotic creations at the Robotic competition this past Saturday.



Robots took over Churchill High School last weekend.

lini, a Livonia resident.

This is the sixth tournament hosted at Churchill. "It has a perfect layout for the competition," she said, noting some 2,000-2,500 people attend, including students, volunteers and spectators.

"Everyone here is trying" to get to Worlds in St. Louis, Carlini said. "We are bantering for the position."

She teaches English at Holmes Middle School in Livonia and noted the three district middle schools feed into high school-level LPS robotics. "I think it gives them a hands-on experience that simply is not possible in the classroom," Carlini said. "It positions kids for success and scholarships and internships. Kids that like

this kind of stuff, it really appeals to them."

Among enthused students is Joshua Johnson, 16, a Wayne Memorial High School junior on the Bionic Zebras team. "I actually think it's really good," Johnson said, adding of the FIRST event compared to other competitions, "I would say so far it's the best. I like the theme of it, the medieval theme."

This year's theme included use of a catapult arm to throw a ball through a target. The Bionic Zebras are mainly Wayne Memorial students in the Wayne-Westland district, plus a John Glenn High student. Johnson is at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center for welding.

He was working at Churchill with Trevor Davis of Garden City, a mentor who works at the Suburban of Garden City car dealership as a lube technician. Davis graduated from Wayne Memorial in 2007.

"Getting to teach the students about electrical and networking," Davis said of what he likes. "To teach students about networking and programming, it's fun." This is his seventh year as a mentor, with the Bionic Zebras having 21 students.

"We tend to help out a lot of the new teams," said Johnson, who has found new friends through robotics. He's his team's safety captain.

The volunteer mentors,

often engineers, are key to team success. Andy Monique of Farmington is an engineer at FANUC with a son, Jay, 16, a sophomore at Farmington High, on the Hackbots team. "He just likes the whole program," Monique said. "I think it's very good for the kids and their future."

Monique is an electrical/software engineer. "There's a lot of opportunity out there in the engineering field," said Monique, in his first year as a mentor.

"There's a big presence from Bosch," he said. "A lot of people contribute."

AISIN Group was the title sponsor for the FIRST in Michigan District Event at Churchill.

Chevy dealer helps disabled teen become wingman

Scott Daniel
Staff Writer

Until Wednesday, Jordan McKenzie had never ridden in the front seat of a car. Afflicted with a rare genetic disorder, the 13-year-old got his first taste of being the wingman when he and his family drove home in a brand new MV-1 from Matick Chevrolet in Redford.

"This is a life-changing event for us," said Sandra McKenzie, his mother. "We've been limited going anywhere with Jordan for a long time. For him to reach his full potential, we want to get him out into the world."

The family lives in Augusta Township, which sits directly south of Ann Arbor in Washtenaw County. They were able to purchase the vehicle, built by Indiana-based Mobility Ventures and designed from the ground up for people with dis-

abilities, with the help of friends, family and businesses.

"It was a combined effort to get this done," Sandra McKenzie said. "We couldn't have done it without a lot of help."

The MV-1 retails for around \$50,000, depending on options. Matick, one of two dealerships that offers the vehicle in Michigan, sold it to the McKenzies for substantially less.

"It's a game-changing product," said Karl Zimmermann, owner of Matick. The longtime Redford dealership, located at Telegraph Road and I-96, is transforming an adjacent office building into a mobility center which will sell the vehicle and offer therapeutic services starting later this year. "We want to make solutions for all of our customers' mobility needs. This really fits with that approach."

The McKenzie family



Sandra McKenzie adjusts son Jordan's chair inside their new MV-1.

SCOTT DANIEL

has been dealt more than its fair share of hard knocks.

Until recently, Jordan had been diagnosed with cerebral palsy. Extensive testing revealed a genetic disorder known as ATR-X Syndrome, which causes a variety of phys-

ical and intellectual disabilities.

The 13-year-old is unable to speak, but can express emotion. As Sandra rolled his wheelchair into the MV-1, the teenager let out sounds of joy, which came as music to the ears of friends like

Nicole Markovits.

A grade-school classmate of Marc McKenzie, she has been friends with both Jordan's parents since 10th grade. She has been a main cog in "Team McKenzie," organizing spaghetti dinners and other events to raise

funds for medical bills. "Marc and I grew up together," Markovits said. "He's such a great dad."

Unfortunately, the elder McKenzie, 44, was diagnosed with cancer in January. Doctors removed his gall bladder and a portion of his intestine, but follow up testing revealed the cancer had spread to his liver and other portions of his body. Sandra McKenzie said the family is hoping for a miracle.

Like his wife and son, Marc McKenzie was happy to receive the new vehicle Wednesday. "She has been doing all of the heavy lifting for us lately," he said. "At least this vehicle will help her out. We're trying to focus on whatever positives we can right now."

To donate to the McKenzie family, please visit their Go Fund Me at gofundme.com/jordansvan.

Finding a financial adviser best for your situation

A couple weeks ago, I sat down with a potential new client. The individual had contacted me after attending one of my seminars and wanted me to manage his money. He came into my office and we had a nice conversation about the type of investor he is and his goals and objectives.

After the conversation, much to the shock of the potential client, I told him that our firm was not the right firm for him and that he should consider using a different adviser. Needless to say, the client was somewhat shocked that I would turn down his business. As I explained to him, I didn't want to turn down his business. As a profes-



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

sional, I know it's important to remember not every adviser is good for every individual. I explained to him that the things he wanted to do were not within my expertise and the reason I was referring him to a different firm was because I wanted him to have the best professional advice available. It is important for people to recognize there are different types of financial advisers in the market and it's not one size fits all.

Financial advisers —

or, sometimes as they're called, wealth managers — can be categorized in a number of different ways. Because I believe that professionals should be independent and work solely for the client, I believe one of the ways you should categorize an adviser is how they are compensated.

Some advisers are compensated by commissions. They receive compensation in a couple different ways. First, by selling you a product. Second, by receiving additional compensation year-by-year through higher fees associated with your product in many of those commission products they provide. My problem with commission salespeople

is they have dual loyalties, the client and the company's product they represent.

In addition to the conflict of interest, the problem I have with commission products in general is that it is very difficult to know exactly what you're paying in fees. When they make it difficult to know what you're paying in fees, you know you're paying too much.

The second type of adviser is what is known as a fee-only adviser. A fee-only adviser only receives compensation directly from you. Most fee-only advisers will either work on a set fee or a percent for money under management. These advisers receive no compensation from

anyone other than their clients. One of the reasons that I am a fee-only adviser is because I want to eliminate as many conflicts of interest as possible.

The third type of adviser charges fees and at the same time accepts commissions. Sometimes these advisers will offset the commission with the fee, other times they will not. The same objections I have to the commission-only salespeople apply to these types of advisers as well. In addition, I think in many cases these advisers are double dipping on fees.

Another way that you categorize advisers is based upon their expertise. Some advisers will specialize in mutual

funds, others in individual stocks. Some advisers will implement more aggressive trading strategies than others.

As far as I'm concerned, in selecting an adviser you not only have to look at how they are compensated, but also what their expertise is. Just like medicine, where doctors can't be a jack of all trades, the same thing applies to financial advisers. The key is just not finding a good adviser; but finding a good adviser for you.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like him to respond to questions, email rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS



COURTESY ZEAL CREDIT UNION

Volunteering at Forgotten Harvest are Zeal Credit Union marketing team Kathy Hurt (from left), Jennifer Shelton, Tiffany Sweet, Lisa Fawcett, Beverly Outland and Bryan Feldpausch.

Zeal helps the hungry

What does 10 thousand pounds of carrots look like? The marketing team at Zeal Credit Union knows. On a recent Friday afternoon, this team worked as volunteers at Forgotten Harvest in Oak Park to repackage large crates of fresh carrots into grocery bags.

"Forgotten Harvest is a Detroit area nonprofit that rescues surplus, prepared and perishable food that is distributed to emergency food providers to help feed the hungry."

"It was a fun team-building project and made us feel good to do charitable work for such a worthy organization," said Lisa Fawcett, vice president of marketing for Zeal Credit Union. "We got a kick out of the fact that they had us

packaging carrots, and we were all dressed in our 'Zeal orange' logo wear for the occasion."

Fawcett added that Forgotten Harvest receives a variety of perishable food like carrots, potatoes and other items and counts on volunteers to help repackage them for distribution.

Top partner finalist

Travis White of Westland was named a finalist for Texas Roadhouse Managing Partner of the Year award, which is the company's highest honor. He and 20 other outstanding managers were chosen from a pool of more than 450.

"These 21 managing partners kicked it to the moon and back in 2015,"

Texas Roadhouse Founder and CEO Kent Taylor said. "Each is a dynamic superstar in their own right. All consistently exceed goals, provide caring environments for their people, legendary food and service to guests, and are true community partners. They contribute to our overall success with outstanding leadership that helps shape the future of Texas Roadhouse."

The Managing Partner of the Year will receive a new Corvette, a check for \$25,000, a lead crystal replica of a Texas Roadhouse restaurant, a Managing Partner of the Year ring and a gold belt buckle.

White has been the Managing Partner of the store located at 36750 Ford Road in Westland for three years, and has been with Texas Roadhouse for 10 years.

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Save the Date:

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Come join us and celebrate the 12th Annual Italian Film Festival USA.

This year we are pleased to collaborate again with the 12th Annual Detroit Italian Film Festival as a National Sponsor bringing 14 award-winning Italian films to venues around the metro area and 13 other cities in the USA.

www.italianfilmfests.org or call 248-930-6017 All films are FREE and open to the general public.



8TH ANNUAL OPERA DAY

Thursday, May 5th, 2016 Celebrating 8 years of supporting the arts in Michigan

Dine with us on Opera Day, Thursday May 5th - a portion of proceeds from this day will be donated to The Michigan Opera Theater.

Pick up your Discount Voucher April 10th - May 5th

Dine with us - Receive a 25% Discount Voucher to purchase tickets for any opera performance of THE MAGIC FLUTE, (sung in English) May 14th - May 22nd

23RD ANNUAL FEAST OF ST. ANTONIO



Monday, June 13th

Benefiting Capuchin Soup Kitchen The Holy Year of Mercy 2016

Donate what you can and enjoy a free lunch buffet from 11am - 3pm, or order off the regular priced menu 11am - 10pm. A portion of the proceeds benefit the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. (Antonio's locations only)



FESTA DEL GELATO

June 27th - July 3rd

(closed July 4th)

FREE Gelato when you dine with us, lunch or dinner. (Dining room only)

FERRARI FRIDAY

July 1st 5 - 8 pm

Displaying the Finest Cars of Italy. We welcome Ferrari owners to join us in displaying their vehicles this evening and enjoy a complimentary dinner. (Some exclusion apply)



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Month of October BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

\$2 donated for every Large Pizza sold in the month of October. Benefiting "Breast Friends Forever" at St. Joseph's Mercy Health System supporting uninsured or underinsured women who are in need of treatment.

In memory of Fernanda Santioni - Benefiting Breast Cancer Awareness



CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS DAY

Monday, October 10th

"In 1492, Christopher Columbus sailed the Ocean Blue..."

Order any entrée off the menu and pay \$14.92 includes dessert and a non-alcoholic beverage. (Dine-in only, tax and gratuity not included, some exclusions apply)



SALUTING OUR VETERANS

Veterans Day, November 11th

All past and present U.S. military receive 50% off lunch or dinner when presenting military ID. (Dine-in Only) A portion of proceeds benefit the Veterans Outreach Project of Southeast Michigan.



6TH RUGIERO CASINO ROYALE

November 12, 2016

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Join us for the Charity Event of the Year!

8TH ANNUAL LUNCH with SANTA!

Santa is visiting two Antonio's locations! Two seatings: 11am and 1pm (Reservations Required)



Saturday and Sunday, December 3rd & 4th [CANTON]

Sunday, December 11th [DEARBORN HGTS.]

This very popular event includes a delicious buffet lunch with healthy food choices plus Antonio's specialties, fun crafts for all ages, picture with Santa and live Reindeer!

Reservations will be taken after November 1st by calling (734) 981-9800 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. (Seating is limited)

Tickets: \$21 per person, children 3 and under \$5 +20% tip will be added Benefiting Wayne County Good Fellows

All locations - unless specified. For details on each event visit www.antonioresaurants.com



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March 30th - April 24th

OUR VIEW

Home improvement scams common in spring

Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard is warning people to watch for door-to-door home improvement scammers, a perennial spring problem. Scammers can strike at any time, although they're especially prevalent in spring.

Such scammers often target seniors, said Bouchard, as those seniors are often home alone. "They often are unable to do some of the jobs that are being pitched to them," he noted.

Driveway and roof repair are often two common pitches. In many cases, two scammers will approach the home, with one asking to use the bathroom and then taking advantage of the absence to steal items such as jewelry or blank checks from the back of a checkbook.

"Sometimes they try to gain access to the house for

nefarious purposes. Never let somebody in your house ever that you don't know," Bouchard said.

When it comes to high-pressure tactics to sign a contract, "There's no rush," he said, noting reputable businesses will be around in the future to do business with. "Most are bonded, insured and they have references."

In some cases, a scammer will climb up on a roof, hit it with a hammer to do damage and then pressure a senior who's unable to look for herself, Bouchard said. Sealing of driveways is often done by scammers using cheap black paint that doesn't last.

If you feel threatened, don't hesitate to call police, said Bouchard, noting they'd rather check out situations that prove harmless later rather than have someone be victimized. You should always read a con-

tract carefully, and can take your time by asking a son, daughter or trustworthy neighbor to review the contract as well prior to signing anything.

Bouchard also touts the Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Michigan as a source of business information. The local BBB is online at www.bbb.org/detroit/ and also takes calls at 248-223-9400. Its general email is info@easternmichiganbbb.org.

The Oakland County sheriff recommends you ask about bonding and insurance, for example what will happen if a hired worker falls and is injured.

References should also always be checked out thoroughly, he added. Don't let your springtime be one in which you're victimized by a home improvement scammer.

LETTERS

GOP's philosophy failed in Flint

People can argue about who is to blame for the Flint water crisis, but one thing is clear. The lead poisoning in Flint's water is a failure of the basic Republican governing philosophy — the idea that we can and should run government like a business. Gov. Rick Snyder is the epitome of that philosophy. His only credentials as a candidate were those of a business executive. He organized his administration around spreadsheets and dashboards. He looked at numbers and ignored people. He overthrew democracy in the name of the bottom line.

After the people of Flint complained to Snyder's Department of Environmental Quality and were ignored, Snyder blamed "bureaucrats" for relying on an overly legalistic interpretation of the rules to ridicule their concerns about the water.

Snyder claims none of this was his fault and calls for a new culture in state government that says "taking care of our citizens has to be part of it." For the people of Flint, it's way too late. But for the rest of us, every election from now on is a chance to soundly reject the Republican "government is just business" philosophy.

Judy Daubenmier
Brighton

GUEST COLUMN

Keeping 'community' in mental health

Far too many of our friends and neighbors suffer every day with the struggles, trials and tribulations of mental health conditions. They all too often suffer alone bearing their burdens the rest of us cannot see.

Those of us who do not bear such a burden can, and should, do more. We can be there to listen. We can offer to help. We can do what we are asked to do.

But, we can do more than that. We must do more than that. We must erase the stigma surrounding mental illness in all its forms so that our friends and neighbors do not suffer in silence.

In 1963, President John F. Kennedy signed the Community Mental Health Act. This was the first of several federal policy changes that helped to stimulate a major transformation of the public mental health system, shifting resources away from insti-



William Wild
GUEST COLUMNIST

tutionalization and into community-based mental health treatment programs.

This was a bold new approach to addressing mental health. But, for decades the country failed to develop the appropriate resources and staffing adequate to treat and support individuals in community-based settings. To this day, far too many public mental health systems remain critically underfunded and understaffed.

We have Values Driven Leadership right here in Southeast Michigan. For years, the former Detroit-Wayne County Mental Health Board was one of them, struggling to create a strategy to help those with mental illness, especially those with serious

mental illness who would likely fall through the cracks of society.

When the decision was made to form the Detroit-Wayne Mental Health Authority (DWMHA), new ways to help people deal with mental illness started to become a priority. Under the DWMHA and its president and CEO Tom Watkins, they were not going to allow the broken system, nor would they let partisan politics interfere with common sense solutions.

The DWMHA has instituted stronger reforms that have improved services and no longer tolerate using the prison system as a de facto mental health provider.

What has impressed me most about the DWMHA is their outreach and partnership they have built with the broader community. They have trained more than 10,000 first responders, clergy, parents and

the general public in Mental Health First Aid training and were recently recognized nationally for their leadership for truly engaging the community — in mental health. With the support of the Flinn Foundation they produced: Opening Minds-Ending Stigma A Youth Perspective — view it on YouTube.

As First Lady Michelle Obama said, "Whether an illness affects your heart, your leg or your brain, it's still an illness, and there should be no distinction ... It's time to tell everyone dealing with a mental health issue that ... getting support isn't a sign of weakness, it's a sign of strength."

We are not there yet, but, thanks to Tom Watkins and the good folks at the DWMHA, we are finally on the path.

William R. Wild is mayor of Westland and chairman of the Conference of Western Wayne.

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Some 400 area teens turn out for a 'modest' prom

Amanda Ordaz
Correspondent

Local teens said they enjoyed an atmosphere where "no one rejects you or criticizes your terrible dance moves" and "the music has no swearing or sexual content" after some 400 of them attended a winter formal dance themed, "Out of this World," hosted by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The dance took place Saturday, March 19, at the Westland Stake Center.

Teens came from as far away as Saline, Troy and Toledo for the dance. The church, with more than 15 million members worldwide, is organized into geographical sections called stakes (similar to a Catholic diocese). Each stake takes turns hosting a dance, so teens from across the Detroit area can socialize with each other in what organizers call "a wholesome environment without compromising the standards they strive to keep in their daily lives."

"This is an important event, as many youth are not comfortable attending their high school dances where clothing, music and dancing are not in line with church standards," said Lisa Nielsen, Westland Stake Young Women's president. "Youth can expect to enjoy dancing, socializing, eating and getting their pictures taken in the photo booth."

Guidelines regarding standards of dress and behavior were sent to local youth leaders to inform the teens of expectations before the dance. "We try to do everything we can to encourage appropriate dress before they get to the dance, so that we don't give our youth negative experiences to associate church dances with," Nielsen said.

Guidelines for the dances come from "For the Strength of Youth," a booklet produced by the church.

Membership in the church was not requisite for attending the dance, but adhering to the standards were. Alisha Burnside of Canton invited four of her



Some 400 teens turned out for the winter formal dance.

JESSICA MCALLISTER



Alisha Burnside of Canton brought four friends to the dance.

JESSICA MCALLISTER

friends from school, who opted to attend the church dance instead of their school dance, which was held the same night.

Alisha was responsible for informing and ensuring that her friends, who are not members of the church, followed the guidelines. Her friends commented that it was difficult to find affordable knee-length dresses with sleeves. Alisha made her own skirt for the dance. Elizabeth DeBrito of Canton said she appreciated that the teens at the church dance "understood personal space, unlike school."

Jessica McAllister of Novi has volunteered countless hours planning and leading the decorating efforts for the past three years.

"I myself was there for 17 hours over three days, but I had over 30-40 people helping me get the job done at different times each day," McAllister said. "It was a lot of hard work from many volunteers that made it a success."

Jason Mero of Canton operates his own DJ business, but provides music for church dances at no cost. He admits "it is difficult" to find music that follows the church guidelines, which includes music with no vulgar or offensive language.

Nielsen said there was "something special" about the dance.

"It's an experience with wholesome fun that cannot be experienced at most school dances anymore," she said.

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST FOR BIDS

CITY OF LIVONIA, MICHIGAN
2016 SIDEWALK AND CONCRETE REPAIR PROGRAM
WATER MAIN BREAK LOCATIONS, CONTRACT 16-F

Sealed bids will be received at the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154 until **2:00 P.M., local time on Tuesday, April 12th, 2016** at which time the RFB's will be secured by the City Clerk. Each bid shall be recorded together with the name of the vendor. Bids shall be in accordance with the requirements of this notice in order to be deemed "responsive." Late bids will be returned unopened.

Instructions and specifications may be obtained by registering with the Michigan Inter-Governmental Trade Network (MITN) at www.mitn.info

All Addendums will be posted on the MITN website. Any information not obtained from the MITN website should not be relied upon. Each response to the bid must be provided to the City of Livonia electronically in Adobe (PDF) format. Faxed bids in response to this request will not be accepted.

All bids shall be sealed in envelopes, plainly marked with: **CITY OF LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 2016 SIDEWALK AND CONCRETE REPAIR PROGRAM WATER MAIN BREAK LOCATIONS, CONTRACT 16-F, name of vendor** and shall be addressed to the **City Clerk, City of Livonia, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154.**

No vendor may withdraw their bid within 120 calendar days after the date set for opening thereof.

The City of Livonia reserves the right to reject or accept any or all bids in whole or in part and waive any irregularities therein. Acceptance of any bid does not constitute a binding agreement until a written Contract is signed by both parties.

Todd J. Zilincik, P.E.
City Engineer

Dennis K. Wright
Mayor

Published: March 31, 2016

LO-000078577 3x4.5

CITY OF LIVONIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Proposal/Bid Due Date: Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation, as Owners, until the hour of 2:00 p.m. (Local Time) on Thursday, April 14, 2016, at the administrative offices of the Livonia Housing Commission, 10800 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48150, at which time said proposals will be opened and publicly read.

Scope of Work: The Department of Parks and Recreation will be accepting proposals at the above address for the purchase, delivery and installation of One (1) - 20' x 20' Picnic Shelter with 4" concrete slab (floor) and one (1) Tot Lot with safety surfacing with installation at Compton Park.

Budget/Financial Authorization: These park improvements are funded through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant funds authorized by HUD under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 and 1977, as amended and as such, prospective bidders are hereby advised that this project is subject to Department of Labor Davis-Bacon Wage Rates and Section 3 regulations.

Construction Documents: Drawings, specifications and other bidding documents will be available beginning, March 31, 2016, through Michigan Inter-Governmental Trade Network (MITN) www.mitn.info, and on the City of Livonia website under Parks and Recreation <http://www.ci.livonia.mi.us/Departments/ParksandRecreation/DepartmentofParksandRecreationHomePage.aspx>

All proposals are to be submitted on the forms furnished by the City which are included in the Bid Package. All proposals shall be sealed in opaque envelopes, plainly marked with the name of the project, name of bidder, and shall be addressed to James M. Inglis, Director Livonia Housing Commission 10800 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan 48150.

Bids must be accompanied by a non-collusion affidavit and bid security in the amount of not less than 5% of the bid. Each successful bidder will be required to furnish and pay for satisfactory performance and payment bonds.

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to award the contract to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder and to waive any informalities in the bids received. Furthermore, the Department of Parks and Recreation encourages Minority Business Enterprises and Women-Owned Business Enterprises to submit proposals for this project.

No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days subsequent to the opening of the bids without the consent of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Mandatory Pre-Bid Site Visit: Will be held **Wednesday, April 6, 2016 10:00 a.m. (Local Time)**. Meet at Compton Park, located at 28732 Lyndon, Livonia, MI 48154. All principal contractors are required to visit the site to review the scope of the work.

Edward Davis, Superintendent
James M. Inglis, Director
Dennis K. Wright, Mayor
CITY OF LIVONIA

Published: March 31, 2016

LO-000078685 3x4.5

Notice of Public Sale City of Livonia Accident and Impounded Vehicles

Tuesday, April 5, 2016
Inspection begins at 8:30 am
Auction starts at 9:00 am
Location: Livonia Towing
12955 Levan
Livonia, MI 48150

Vehicles to be auctioned:
2006 Chrysler
2003 Cadillac
2003 Mercury
2003 Ford
1999 Buick
2005 Chevrolet
2005 Chevrolet
1999 Saab
2005 Land Rover

2c3la43r86h513615
1g6dm57n530168289
1mfem55s23g624754
1fty10d13pa34722
2g4wb52kox1442318
1gnc18x75k108551
2cnd173f656014397
ys3df78n9x7052875
salme11425a183843

ALL ITEMS TO BE AUCTIONED ARE SOLD "AS IS" AND ALL SALES ARE FINAL. SALES ARE "CASH ONLY" AND PAYMENT IS DUE, IN FULL, THE MOMENT THE BID IS ACCEPTED.

Published: March 31, 2016

LO-0000277071 3x3



HUNTER LENG & BRANCHES DRAIN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: April 8, 2016
TIME: 9:30 A.M.
LOCATION: Wayne County Department of Public Services Roads Division
Central Maintenance Yard
29900 Goddard Road Extension
Romulus, Michigan
QUESTIONS: (313) 224-3620

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the costs related to maintenance work have been determined by the Hunter Leng & Branches Drain Drainage Board on February 26, 2016 to be tentatively apportioned as follows:

CITY OF WESTLAND, Wayne County, Michigan, for benefits to public health.	96.49%
COUNTY OF WAYNE, Michigan, For benefits to county roads	3.51%

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Drainage Board will meet at the above date, time and location for the purpose of hearing any objections to said apportionment.

Proceedings conducted at this public meeting will be subject to the provisions of the Michigan Open Meetings Act. Information regarding this meeting may be obtained from the Wayne County Drain Commissioner's Office located at 400 Monroe Street, Suite 400, Detroit, Michigan 48826.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Drain Commissioner at the number listed above or through the Michigan Relay Center at 7-1-1 (TDD) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

Dated: February 26, 2016

Published: March 17 & 31, 2016

Kenneth M. Kucel
Kenneth M. Kucel, P.E.
Wayne County Drain Commissioner

LO-0000275474 3x4.5

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC

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MARK THE DATE

SPRING SENIOR EXPO

**TUESDAY, April 5, 2016
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**Schoolcraft College
Livonia Campus
VisTaTech Center**

- **FREE Demonstrations and Workshops**
- **Local Exhibitors**
- **FREE Prizes**
- **FREE Refreshments**
- **FREE Admissions**
- **FREE Parking**
- **FREE Blood Pressure, Pulse, Height, and Weight Screening by Schoolcraft Nursing Department**

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- SMART
- Leo's Coney Island of Livonia

BRONZE SPONSORS

- St. Mary Mercy Livonia
- The Elder Care Firm

Featured Guest Speakers



9:20 - 10:15
Maurice Cox, RN, CCE-MT-P/IC and Michelle Moccia DNP, ANP-BC, CCRN
St. Mary Mercy Livonia
Healthcare Decisions



10:30 - 11:25
Rick Bloom, J.D., CPA
Bloom Asset Management
Everything you Need to Know about Estate Planning



11:40 - 12:35
Dr. Sol Cogan, D.C.
President and CEO
HealthQuest Management, Inc.
New Technology in Pain Relief

Demonstrations and Workshops

9:00 – 9:30
Schoolcraft College
Facts, Figures and Warning signs of Alzheimer's Disease and other Dementias

The Elder Care Firm
How to protect yourself and loved ones from long-term care costs

Botsford Commons
Why men don't listen and women can't read maps

12:30 - 1:00 p.m.
Schoolcraft College
Exercise for Easing Arthritic Pain

Senior Helpers
Age in Place

Michigan Department of State
Safe Drivers Smart Options: Keys to Lifelong Mobility

Questions?
CALL 248.926.2203



Schoolcraft College



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Wish you were here



The Mozurkewich family — (from left) Dave, Eric and Kim Mozurkewich, Katie Schesky, Meghan McGinnis and Kevin Mozurkewich — went skiing recently in Breckenridge, Colo., and made sure to take their Livonia Observer with them.

COURTESY MOZURKEWICH FAMILY

Spring bazaar

St. John's Episcopal Church hosts its Spring Bazaar from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, April 2, at the church, located at 555 S. Wayne Road.

The event features arts, crafts, baked goods, etc., with lunch available. For more information, call 734-721-5023 (11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday).

Mom2Mom sales

The Garden City High School Mom2Mom Sale takes place 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 23, at the high school, 6500 Middlebelt. Sellers and shoppers will get good deals on new and gently used baby and kids' clothes as well as toys, games, dvds, books, strollers, bikes, swings, bouncers, etc.

There will be more than 85 tables to shop from, a large item area, concessions and a bake sale. Admission is only \$1 (\$2 for early bird at 8:30 a.m.). Tables are \$25 for an eight-foot table/chair including standard rack space (you provide rack).

For more information including the table agreement, go to www.facebook.com/gcmom2mom-sale or send an email to gcmom2momsale@hotmail.com.

St. Edith/St Colette hosts a Mom2Mom sale 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 9, featuring 74 tables of great deals on gently used maternity, baby and children's items.

St. Edith Church is located at 15089 Newburgh in Livonia. Admission is \$2 8:30-9 a.m. and \$1 from 9 a.m. to noon.

For more information email m2msale@stecmops.org.

'Gone With the Wind'

Join local "Gone With the Wind" expert Kathleen Marcaccio as she shares insights about this legendary novel and film in a presentation at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 6,

at the Wayne Public Library. Learn about author Margaret Mitchell, her real-life inspiration for Rhett Butler and other intriguing background information.

Marcaccio's presentation also includes a trove of "GWTW" memorabilia.

To register for this free program, call the library at 734-721-7821, or visit the Adult Services Desk.

Casino trip

The Wayne Rotary sponsors a trip to Motor City Casino at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 4.

Pick-up is at the Wayne District Court on Sims. Cost is \$35 (you get \$30 back in slot play). The trip is a fundraiser for Wayne Rotary.

For more information, contact Trish Hampton at 734-890-6934.

Rainforest show

It's truly something you will have to see to believe. On Tuesday, April 5, Hayes Elementary School in Westland will be transformed into a tropical rainforest.

The show, "Live on Stage, The Rainforest," will make the audience feel like they're right in the middle of the tropical rainforest with the sounds and sights of the Amazon region. The show will include see exotic birds, kinkajous, monkeys and snakes.

The show starts at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$5 per person and will be available at the door. Hayes Elementary is located at 30600 Louise in Westland.

Happily ever after

The Alexander Blue House at Greenmead hosts "Happily Ever After," a chance to reminisce about weddings, showcase vintage gowns and photos 7-9:30 p.m. Thursday, April 14.

Visitors will begin at the decorated Historic Newburgh Church for a presentation, followed by the "reception" at the Alexander Blue House for hors d'oeuvres, spar-

kling beverages, wedding cake and coffee.

Advance tickets are \$15, available at the Greenmead office, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Tickets will be sold through Monday, April 11. All proceeds benefit the preservation of Greenmead Historical Park.

Kindergarten readiness

The South Redford School District Shear Kindergarten Readiness Program offers children who reside in South Redford and will be age 4 by Sept. 1 an opportunity to experience quality learning activities which foster development as the children grow toward kindergarten.

Classes meet Monday through Thursday, morning or afternoon for three-hour sessions. This is a tuition-free program (with the exception of a one-time material fee of \$75).

Registration takes place in the preschool room 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. Friday, April 22. The preschool room is located in the Shear Early Childhood Center at 26141 Schoocraft (Use the second parking lot, south of Schoocraft on Berwyn). Parents interested in

more information may contact the Student Services Dept. at 313-535-4000, ext. 1028, or go to srpschool.weebly.com.

1,000 books

Families are invited to join the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program at the Livonia Public Library. It's a nationwide challenge that encourages parents and caregivers to regularly read aloud to their children. By reading just one book a night, families can reach the 1,000-book goal in three years and provide their children essential early literacy skills.

The 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program is available to all families with children between the ages of birth and five years. Registration is open. For more information, call the library at 734-466-2493 or go to www.livoniapubliclibrary.org. This program is free of charge.

Maltese Bingo

The Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc., presents "Shamrock Bingo" at 6:30 p.m. each Monday and Tuesday at 33111 Plymouth Road in Livonia.

The MABSI is donat-

ing 50 percent of its proceeds from its fundraising bingo nights to help www.flintkids.org throughout March.

For more information, call 248-557-2000.

Karate tournament

Shotokan Karate Federation of Michigan hosts a Michigan Karate Tournament on Sunday, April 10, at Garden City Middle School, 1851 Radcliff.

Age groups include 5-11, 12-17, 18-34 and 35-older. Cost is \$40 for one event, \$50 for two events, \$60 for three events and \$70 for four events.

Doors open at 9:30 a.m. For more information, contact Sensei Tony Valvona at 734-658-5683 or

email Tony@karate-mi.com.

GriefShare meetings

The congregation at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church has experienced the deaths of several members in the past few months. In an effort to respond to the grief and sorrow for their loved ones, the church will be starting a grief support group using the "GriefShare" materials. GriefShare groups meet weekly for 13 sessions to help face the challenges after the loss of a loved one and move toward rebuilding lives.

Each week, the GriefShare group will watch a video seminar featuring experts on grief and recovery subjects. After viewing the video, group members will spend time as a support group, discussing what was presented in that week's video seminar and what is going on in their lives.

GriefShare will be held 6:30-8 p.m. each Monday at Christ Our Savior Lutheran, 14175 Farmington Road, in Livonia in the chapel. This is free for all who would like to attend, but registration is requested to know how many to prepare for. Register at www.christsavior.org under Events tab. For more information, contact Mike McGrath at 734-459-1274 or Linda Hollman at the church office at 734-522-6830.

CITY OF WESTLAND INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, MI 48185, on **April 27th, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.** (no exceptions will be made for late filings) for the following:

RTU / CONDENSER REPLACEMENT(S)

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office or at www.CityofWestland.com. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Devin J. Adams
City Controller

Published: March 31, 2016

LO-000075879 2x1.5

ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST FOR BIDS

CITY OF LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 3 YEAR SUPPLEMENTAL HVAC AND PLUMBING SERVICE, REPAIR, INSPECTIONS, CONSULTING AND MAINTENANCE

Sealed bids will be received at the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154 until **2:00 P.M., local time on Tuesday, April 26th, 2016** at which time the RFB's will be secured by the City Clerk. Each bid shall be recorded together with the name of the vendor. Bids shall be in accordance with the requirements of this notice in order to be deemed "responsive." Late bids will be returned unopened.

A **mandatory pre-bid meeting** will be held in the West Conference Room at the Department of Public Works Building, 12973 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan (734) 466-2655 at **9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, April 12th, 2016. Bids will not be accepted from those firms who do not attend.**

Instructions and specifications may be obtained by registering with the Michigan Inter-Governmental Trade Network (MITN) at www.mitn.info

All Addendums will be posted on the MITN website. Any information not obtained from the MITN website should not be relied upon. Each response to the bid must be provided to the City of Livonia electronically in Adobe (PDF) format. Faxed bids in response to this request will not be accepted.

All bids shall be sealed in envelopes, plainly marked with: **CITY OF LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 3 YEAR SUPPLEMENTAL HVAC AND PLUMBING SERVICE, REPAIR, INSPECTIONS, CONSULTING AND MAINTENANCE, name of vendor and shall be addressed to the City Clerk, City of Livonia, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154.**

No vendor may withdraw their bid within 120 calendar days after the date set for opening thereof.

The City of Livonia reserves the right to reject or accept any or all bids in whole or in part and waive any irregularities therein. Acceptance of any bid does not constitute a binding agreement until a written Contract is signed by both parties.

Douglas Moore
Superintendent, DPW

Dennis K. Wright
Mayor

Published: March 31, 2016

LO-0000276870 5x8

CITY OF WESTLAND SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES MTG. 7 3/21/16

- Presiding: President Pro Tem-Cicirelli Bryant
- Present: Coleman, Hammons, Herzberg, Kehrer
- 60: Minutes of regular meeting held 3/7/16.
- North Bros./Ford/City of Westland 5K Run/Walk 5/14/16.
- WWFA Charity Boot Drive 4/14-16 Wayne & Ford Rds.
- Girl Scout drive-thru cookie booth at 7205 N. Wayne Rd. on various weekend dates in March & April.
- Traffic Control Order 2016-01; Install (2) "Handicap Parking" signs in front of JBCC, 32150 Dorsey Rd.
- Traffic Control Order 2016-02; Install (1) "No Parking 8 am to 5 pm Mon-Fri" "This Side of Sign" sign on south side of Bayview just east of Fairlane.
- Addendum to Synergy Environmental Contract approved by Council 6/1/15.
- Adopted Prepared Resolution to approve Wayne Co. Annual Permit A-16128.
- Adopted Prepared Resolution to approve Wayne Co. Annual Permit A-16073.
- Adopted Prepared Resolution to approve Wayne Co. Annual Permit A-16158.
- Intro. Ord. 248-A-80 to amend Sec. 4:13 of Ord. 248 re. temp. sales, uses, or special events & temp. buildings & structures.
- Intro. Ord. 29-W-39-1, to amend Ch. 46, Sec. 46-1 of the City Code re. the license, review, & inspection fees for temp. sales from structures.
- 62: Rev. Site Plan for Prop. Ext. Renovation, 35100 Ford Road w/contingencies.
- 63: Site Plan for Prop. Additions to Greenwood Villa Apts., 7600 Nankin Blvd. w/contingencies.
- 64: Rezoning CB-3, General Commercial Business to CB-1, Low Intensity Commercial Business, Parcel #002-99-0014-000, south side of Joy Rd. East of Middlebelt Rd.
- 65: SLU for Prop. House of Faith International Ministries Church, 28945 Joy Road w/contingencies.
- 66: Appr. checklist: \$ 8,635,416.80.
- Mtg. adj. at 8:28 p.m.
- Minutes available in the Clerk's Office.

Christine Cicirelli Bryant
Council President Pro Tem

Donna DeWinter
Council Secretary

Published: March 31, 2016

LO-0000276882 3x6

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Halo California Clementines \$3.99 3 lb bag	Jumbo California Broccoli 2/\$3
California Cauliflower 2/\$5	Jumbo Cantaloupe 2/\$4
Canadian Greenhouse Red Pepper 2/\$3	Aunt Mid's Steak Cut Mushrooms 2/\$4

ORGANIC

Avocados 99¢ ea
Navel Oranges 2/\$1



Joe's Meat & Seafood



USDA Premium Choice Angus Ground Beef from Chuck
 \$3.49 lb
 Save \$1.00

DELI



Dietz & Watson Black Forest Smoked Turkey \$8.99 lb Save \$3.00	Sokolow Polish Ham \$4.99 lb Save \$2.00	Old Tyme Muenster Cheese \$3.99 lb Save \$3.00
Honeysuckle Turkey \$5.99 lb Save \$2.00	Dietz & Watson Provolone Cheese \$5.99 lb Save \$3.00	Kowalski Hard Salami \$5.99 lb Save \$1.00
Old Tyme Oven Roasted Chicken \$6.29 lb Save \$2.50	Sahlens Smokehouse Ham \$4.99 lb Save \$4.00	Old Tyme Pepperoni \$5.99 Save \$1.50

Fresh All Natural Boneless Pork Chops
 \$2.99 lb
 Save \$2.00

USDA Premium Choice Angus Chuck Roast
 \$5.99 lb
 Save \$1.00

PREMIUM FRESH Chicken Leg Quarters
 89¢ lb
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Entrees-to-Go Italian Chicken Cutlet
 \$3.99 lb
 Save \$1.00

Ground Chicken
 \$3.99 lb
 Save \$1.00



FINE CHEESES

Beemster Paradiso Cheese \$12.99 lb Save \$2.99	Apple Smoked Cheese \$4.99 ea Save \$1.00	Aged Stella Asiago \$7.99 lb Save \$4.00
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Best of Both Cakes
 \$17.99 6" \$27.99 8"



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Back Roads Granola \$6.99 ea
 Save \$2.00

Joe's Fresh Baked Cherry Pie \$12.99
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19 Crimes Red Blend & Cabernet Sauvignon \$6.99 btl
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WINE CELLAR

Rodney Strong Cabernet Sauvignon \$14.99 btl

New Belgium Brewing Co. \$7.99 6 pack



WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

Schoolcraft splits doubleheader with Macomb

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Displaced from Ford Field due to last week's heavy rain, Schoolcraft College's softball team played Saturday's doubleheader at Macomb Community College instead.

Franklin, Stevenson, Garden City grads shine in Lady Ocelots' 8-2 victory

And thanks to a complete game by sophomore pitcher and captain Elaine Gerou (Plymouth), the Lady Ocelots notched their first Michigan Community College Athletic Association victory — a 8-2

triumph over the Monarchs.

The win followed the day's opening contest, a 3-0 loss to the defending conference champions.

"Overall, I was pleased that we were able to go to Macomb

and get the split," Schoolcraft head coach Rey Linares said. "We didn't do a good job of executing and moving our base runners in the first game, we cannot strand all those base runners and expect to win

many games in this tough conference.

"But we made the necessary offensive adjustments in the second game with a good mix of strategic hits and small ball, accompanied by solid team

See OCELOTS, Page B5

BLOWING THE WHISTLE

ABOUT THIS SERIES

Go to any scholastic, club-level or rec league athletic event in any city or town across Michigan and you will find one constant: one (or more) referee who is there to ensure fair play and following of the rules. A team might be short of players or lack an assistant coach, but without a man or woman in the proverbial striped shirt, there is no game or match or meet.

In recent years, officials in all sports have come under fire, whether from overheated parents, increased social media or disrespectful players and coaches. Many leagues and governing bodies are having a difficult time finding enough adults to act as officials for youth sports events.

Observer & Eccentric reporters conducted a variety of interviews in the last several weeks, with referees, officials, executives and others who are involved in the recruitment and training of sports officials. We found that, while many still enjoy the unique thrill of being part of the game, others are being driven from the playing field, some haunted by the killing two years ago of local soccer referee John Bienowicz.

Today begins a two-part package of stories, "Blowing the Whistle." Come back April 7 for the second installment.

INSIDE

- » Young official says education key to improving attitudes, B2
- » Former player, coach sees his sport from a new angle, B3

COMING APRIL 7

- » 'You don't have a horse in the race,' referee says
- » Former prep player moves straight into officiating
- » Teenaged umpire talks about leaving game for good
- » MHSAA makes recruiting, retaining officials top priority

KICK IN THE GUT



As much as Mario D'Agostino (left) and Kevin Winningham love calling soccer games at High Velocity Sports in Canton and at other area venues, their patience is being tested by parents and others who jump at any chance to criticize dedicated refs.

Veteran soccer refs blame social media, culture of disrespect and 'win-at-all-costs' mentality for dwindling pool of officials

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Mario D'Agostino's hands trembled as he held them up, presenting the ultimate irony. One of his wrists was adorned with a yellow and orange wrist band with a simple but direct message: "Respect the Game."

The veteran youth and high school soccer official — the referee coordinator at High Velocity Sports in Canton — had just witnessed a troubling incident in which a young female soccer ref was verbally abused following a game by off-the-rail parents and coaches.

"I got parents up there that are just berating the referee and it's a young girl," D'Agostino said during a recent interview at the Michigan Avenue soccer facility. "They're just going crazy. There's a coach who just is ripping into me, telling me 'Have you ever played soccer? Have you ever been in a stadium?' That has absolutely nothing to do with youth soccer.

"My hands are shaking right now because I just got done with the confrontation. This is U-7 boys up here right now ... this is the problems we're having. The parents are

up there all screaming and yelling at the referee."

According to D'Agostino and fellow soccer official Kevin Winningham, also a familiar face at High Velocity as assistant head referee for the Canton Soccer Club, such attacks are on the rise almost every day.

Walking away

As unchecked attacks in social media now carry over to real life conflict, as venom escalates, the number of registered soccer officials across the board is plummeting.

Winningham said annual attrition is at about 25 percent. Just as troubling, fewer are signing up with the United States Soccer Federation. "These kinds of problems we have with parents," D'Agostino said. "Just verbally abusing these children to the point where they're not interested in being out there."

Who could blame them? No one would want to be faced with maximum abuse for a few bucks more than the minimum wage.

"If a parent, if a player, would step in to become a

See REFEREES, Page B2



Bob Czech (center) has been officiating for more than 30 years and heads the Metro Detroit Athletic Officials group. Working on his crew at a recent basketball game are Plymouth's Paul Woodard (left) and Southfield's Darcy Gitchway.

Longtime official keeps things in Czech

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

With more than 30 years of experience, Bob Czech has virtually seen it all as a registered high school official.

The 60-year-old from Berkley, a retired Detroit police officer who also worked for Farmer's Insurance for 10 years in auto theft claims, remains as an active Michigan High School Athletic Association official while working behind the scenes as an assignor for the Metro Detroit Athletic Officials group.

The officiating landscape has changed dramatically over the past 30 years for Czech, who is now an assign-

or for the 24-school Kensington Lakes Activities Association in both basketball and football. He is also a baseball and softball assignor for the 23-school Oakland Activities Association.

"When I first started out, all the officials had to call the A.D.s and get their games," Czech said. "Then, a few years later, I got a call from George Lovich (former Livonia Franklin A.D.) and he wanted me to become an assignor."

"George Lovich, Ron Holland (former North Farmington A.D.) and Paul Cummings (Salem A.D.) —

See CZECH, Page B2

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 **BLOWING THE WHISTLE**


BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

On any given Saturday, Mario D'Agostino (left) and Kevin Winningham expect to work several games, at the very least. Every year, fewer are returning to officiate contests in youth, high school and adult rec leagues.

REFEREES

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referee," Winningham said, "they would have a greater understanding of a game, as well as a greater respect for those who are working games — whether it's an 11-year-old girl upstairs or a 50-year-old guy out on the field."

Nodding emphatically in agreement was D'Agostino. "I think one of the greatest things that I wish could happen is that every parent or coach could officiate a game," D'Agostino said. "Put them behind the whistle. And I guarantee you their perspective of the game would totally change, in all sports. To see what it's like to make that split-second decision."

Remembering John

Both Canton men always wear the "Respect the Game" wristband when they officiate contests. And they do plenty, at the youth and club levels and for the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

"I always make it a point to roll it up (almost to his fingers) during my captain's meeting," Winningham said. "Just to make a point: 'We're here to respect the game, gentlemen.'"

Yet there are times when both men can't help but wonder what's happening, why violence, trash talk and overall unruly behavior directed at refs of all ages is threatening the lifeblood of their sport.

That unwanted element already is costing much more than that. D'Agostino and Winningham also wear their wristbands as a constant reminder of dear friend John Bienowicz, a Westland man and longtime official who was fatally punched in the head in summer 2014 by an angry player during an adult amateur league contest in Livonia.

Bienowicz lost his life because the player, Bassel Saad, 36, of Dearborn, went berserk when Bienowicz issued a red card against him (thus ejecting him from the match).

Saad eventually pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter and is serving 8-15 years in prison.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Whenever and wherever Mario D'Agostino and Kevin Winningham go to officiate soccer games, they wear these wristbands to honor the memory of friend and fellow referee John Bienowicz.

Earlier this year, a player who had been kicked out of a men's game in Argentina reportedly was so upset that he retrieved a gun from his personal belongings, marched back on to the pitch and shot the referee to death.

"Why should we be fearful for our lives now when we officiate games?" D'Agostino said. "We have our families telling us (to give up refereeing) ... my wife's saying that. But she knows and (Winningham's) wife knows, it's imbedded in us. It really means a lot for us to do these games."

"But yet we've got family members now who are telling us to slow down a little bit? When you need to be escorted to your car after a game by an athletic director, after a high

school game, that's really, really bad. That's what it's getting to right now."

What now?

Another thing it's getting to is a crossroads for soccer lifers such as D'Agostino and Winningham, who routinely pack each Saturday with an endless string of games to call simply because not enough refs are in the mix.

"They want to limit us to three or four (games), but there's nobody there," Winningham said. "We keep saying yes. (This is) our weekend; we both work (regular jobs), we have wives at home ... I do it

See REFEREES, Page B3

College player says education the key to curbing anger

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

It isn't just middle-aged guys such as Mario D'Agostino and Kevin Winningham that have some issues with the way soccer referees are treated in the anything goes world of 2016.

Yes, even 20-somethings don't like the current landscape where every perceived misstep by an official is videotaped for the social media masses to peruse. Or where every so-called soccer "expert" can anonymously rip a ref and start the snowball of anger rolling down the hill.

One of them is Tyler Winningham, a longtime soccer player even though he is in his early 20s. He was part of the Canton varsity boys soccer state championship team in 2011 and also competed with the Canton Soccer Club.

After high school, he's played at Schoolcraft College and Lawrence Technological University and also refs and coaches the sport at the club soccer level.

Although Tyler Winningham was unable to attend a recent roundtable discussion at High Velocity Sports, he responded via email to several questions that also were delved into by D'Agostino and Kevin Winningham.

Q: As a player, referee and coach, do you have a unique perspective in how you deal with game officials?

TW: I think being a player, referee and coach does give me a unique perspective towards how I deal with game officials. I think when you coach vs. play vs. ref at the different levels available, it makes things frustrating but enjoyable. At each level you have a different expectations of the referees. I coach U-9 and U-10 boys, so I will rarely yell at referees at that level because they are typically either new young referees who are nervous and do not know exactly what they are doing or they are older referees who only walk all game because they are far out of their prime. The expectation when I play in college or semi-pro, you are expecting to have top officials and you respect those game officials much more because for the most part, they are very competent but you do have to understand that referees will make mistakes at all levels.

Q: Have you considered stepping away from being a referee due to the increasing safety concerns, with highly publicized stories about soccer refs being killed or injured by fans and players?

TW: I have never considered stepping away from refereeing due to increasing safety concerns. I understand the safety and understand that players and fans can be stupid, but I have also come to realize that when players and coaches and fans are yelling, there is usually a reason. Yes, some yell for stupid reasons because they do not understand the game. But for the most part, certain coaches and players only yell because maybe you did mess up. One thing that I try to focus on when I



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Tyler Winningham works a soccer game during the 2015 Canton Cup. He also plays and coaches the sport, giving him a unique perspective on the way officials are treated.

"I understand the safety and understand that players and fans can be stupid, but ... when players and coaches and fans are yelling, there is usually a reason."

TYLER WINNINGHAM

am refereeing is game management. When events happen and safety becomes an issue, it usually is because the build up of events. It isn't just a one time sporadic moment. When issues arise during the game, players/parents/coaches yelling at the officials or each other, parents being disrespectful and ruining the atmosphere, those things need to be taken care of right away. When they are not properly taken care of or handled, they escalate to a point that is no longer controllable and the referee crew is then in danger. Game management starting from the moment you arrive at a game to the moment you leave a game is a key to staying safe and maintaining a smooth game.

Q: How much do you connect with your dad about these issues? Are you seeing these issues the same way or differently? Please explain why, either way.

TW: I think my dad and I partially agree with the issues. There are multiple aspects to the issues going on and the dwindling of referees. The two main things I see are the culture we live in and the thinness of skin my people now a days. I have thick skin. Kevin has thick skin. Referees today have very thin skin. One small com-

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CZECH

Continued from Page B1

those guys mentored me and got me into it."

Changes in the wind

Czech said the procedure for booking games took a different course during "the late 1980s and early 1990s."

"It's changed a lot ... how you get your games, how you get trained, coaches, behavior of parents, etc, etc," Czech said.

The MDAO boasts more than 400 members, "but a lot of guys belong to two or three different associations," whether it's Downriver or the East Side, according to Czech.

Another challenge Czech and MDAO faced came in 2008, when the MSHAA lost its gender equity lawsuit, forcing coinciding girls and boys seasons. Volleyball moved from the winter to the fall, while

girls basketball went from fall to winter, among other changes.

"They're working more than they have before," Czech said. "And obviously, if they're older, it's a little rougher on the body. Whereas before you'd work the girls (games) in the fall and the boys in the winter, so you only worked a couple of times a week. Some of these guys are working three and four times a week, maybe five."

Many officials have had to transition during the week back and forth between boys and girls basketball games, which can also be a challenge and an adjustment.

"The boys game is much faster, but the rules are the same," Czech said. "You have to interpret the rules the same. The boys game is obviously faster than the girls, so you have to adjust a little bit, but like I said, the rules are the same. We generally have to be neutral. Boys are stronger, so

they're going to be able to take a little more hitting and bumping a little bit, whereas females aren't quite as strong, so you have to adjust a little bit."

Knowing the rulebook

Officials also have to adapt year-to-year to rules changes and points of emphasis handed down from both the MHSAA and the National Federation of High School Associations.

"From the people in Lansing (MHSAA), Mark Uyl and Nate Hampton, they're the ones that kind of give us guidance," Czech said. "They're kind of like our bosses. They give us feedback and they just tell us what we need to do. Kind of like a teacher when a principal tells them to do something. Well, the principal is the boss, right?"

In the KLAA, varsity football and basketball officials are paid normally \$60 to \$65 per game, while it's \$45 to \$50 for freshman and JV.

"We're a little behind other states because we just haven't caught up, but hopefully we'll catch up eventually," Czech said.

Czech said his biggest challenge now is recruiting younger officials.

"The problem is the average age of the officials here is between 53 and 57, so we need some more young guys," he said. "We keep reaching out to the seniors and the coaches at the high schools. We talk to them and say, 'Hey, do you have any seniors that are going to graduate, stay in town and go to college, like Wayne (State), Oakland (University), anywhere?' We say, 'Hey, want to become an official?' If you played high school sports, we want to train and mentor you. It's the local associations that have to go out and hustle the guys."

Ongoing shortage

The shortage of officials remains an ongoing concern

for Czech, particularly from an assignor's standpoint.

"Basketball, we're kind of OK, but we need more and football we need some more," he said. "The problem is baseball. We don't nearly have enough baseball umpires. It's at 4 o'clock and it's in the spring when it's cold. It doesn't warm up around here until the middle of May, so the first two or three weeks it's ice cold. And it's 4 o'clock in the afternoon and most people are working unless you're retired or work midnights."

The MDAO assignor said there are a couple of necessary components to in becoming a registered MHSAA official.

"You got to have thick skin and common sense," Czech said. "And be like in your job ... flexible. It's an avocation, not a vocation."

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 **BLOWING THE WHISTLE**

This official has a new appreciation for the job

Former player, coach sees wrestling competition from a whole new angle

Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

When a friend pushed the idea of being a wrestling official, Zaim Cunmulaj decided to give it a try. He was not enamored with the job after his initial experience.

"By the time I was done, I said, 'This not for me; it's too hard,'" Cunmulaj said. "He said: 'Don't worry; it's hard for everybody at first.'

"I went home and was exhausted, mentally and physically. He pushed me into hanging in there. I came back. I'm very glad I did come back."

Cunmulaj, 45, recently completed his third season of officiating matches at the middle and high school levels.

An all-state wrestler at North Farmington High School and former college football player, Cunmulaj is still fit and looks as if he could compete today.

After a period of adjustment, Cunmulaj adapted to the rigors of being back on the mats.

"Everyone thinks officiating is easy," he said. "It's difficult to do, to be in the right spot at the right time. In wrestling, you have to anticipate what the next move is going to be."

"It's a lot harder than what I thought it would be. Being an official now, I look at the game a lot differently. I'll go, 'Wow, that has to be hard on the referee, taking all that heat.'

"We're human. Sure, I've made mistakes. But I totally look at the officiating differently than I did."

Playing experience helps

It helps in the case of Cunmulaj, who was a heavyweight wrestler and a defensive lineman at East Carolina University, to know the sport and have competed in it.

He also is an assistant football coach and was the wrestling head coach at North Farmington in the 1990s, but there's still more to being a good official.

"It's a challenge to know all the rules," he said. "You have to know them in a split second. You can't open the book. You have to be ready to go or coaches are all over you."

"They'll take advantage of you if they see you don't know the rules. They'll let you know and that will travel (throughout the coaching ranks).

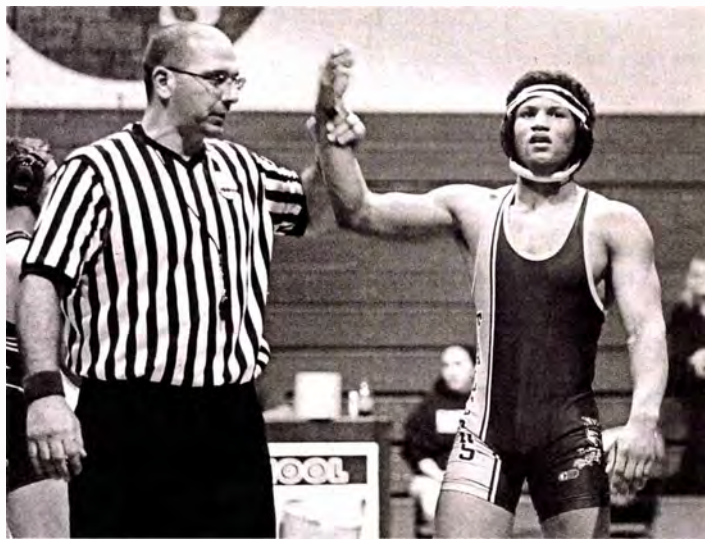
"There was a lot of stuff I had to learn. A lot of stuff had changed since I had wrestled. There are changes every year to the rule book."

Cunmulaj recalled one incident when an understanding coach took the time to share his knowledge with him.

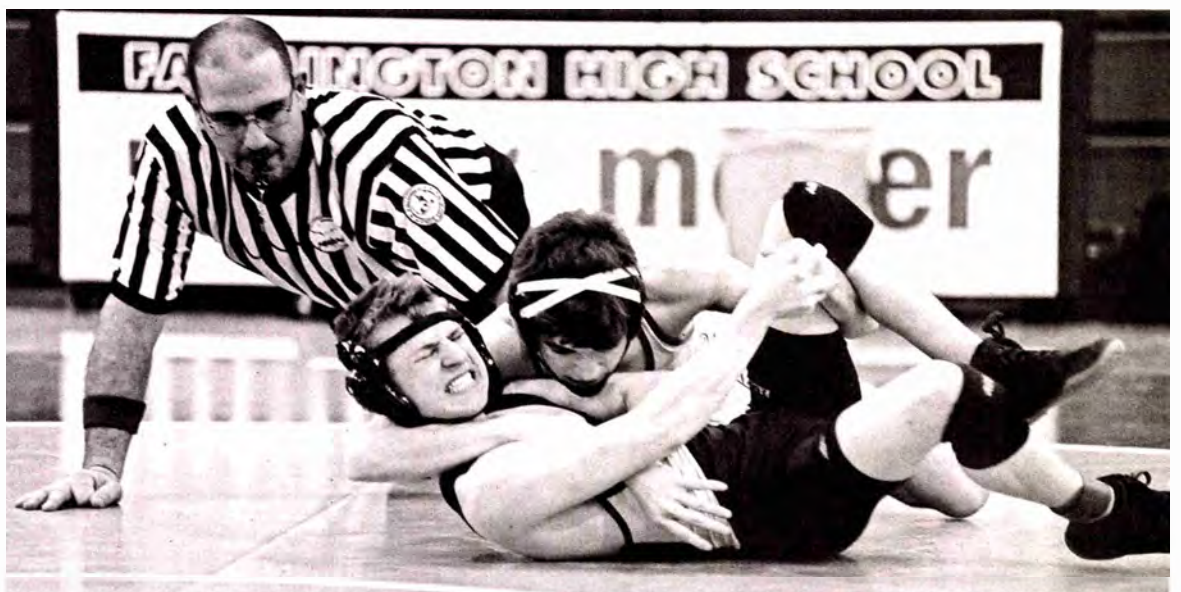
"This what kept me in officiating," Cunmulaj said. "I had



Cunmulaj



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Zaim Cunmulaj declares Farmington's Gyasi Davis the winner during a match this past season.



Zaim Cunmulaj referees a match during the Farmington Public Schools tournament.

JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

made a mistake. He said, 'Let me open the book and explain it to you.' He was wonderful. He didn't scream at me; I didn't have to put my guard up. "He said: 'Please, stay with it. We're glad to have you in the sport.' He was encouraging and it helped."

The right balance

Cunmulaj tries to find the right balance between being an authority figure and a calm, understanding figure, too.

Other officials and coaches have told him it helps to have the deep voice he does, he noted.

"I try to be as invisible as possible," Cunmulaj said. "If I make a mistake, I'll walk over and apologize and say, 'I'm sorry; I didn't see that.' I try to combine the two things and get the best of two worlds for the coaches and the referees."

"There was one incident this

year at a tournament. A guy was hanging on the railing. He leaned over and screamed something at me. I said, 'Sir, if you want to stay in the gym, you might want to sit down.' He sat down.

"He came to me later and said: 'I'm sorry about what I said.' I said: 'I understand; everybody gets upset sometimes.'

Sometimes, Cunmulaj's reputation precedes him with coaches who've seen the tape of him wrestling a black bear 20 years ago at a promotional event.

"I look back and say, 'What was I thinking?'" Cunmulaj said. "A couple guys wrestled him before me. As soon I got up there, (the owner) told the bear to stand up. My eyes opened like half-dollars."

"We kind of wrestled around. He was just kind of playing. It was something to

remember.

"As a young referee, you get a lot of good feedback from coaches. Some have said, jokingly, if I did make a mistake, they weren't going to tell me."

It's no good to yell

The worst thing an athlete or spectator can do is yell at an official, according to Cunmulaj, a resident of Walled Lake.

"I've never had a problem with that," he said. "Most coaches seem to do a good job of keeping spectators in line. It's something that happens in every sport."

"You walk into any gym and hear that. You just have to let it roll off your back. You just kind of block it out."

"I've seen kids sitting there yelling at referees. I'll walk over to him and say, 'Coach, this guy or that guy needs to watch what he's doing or keep it to himself.' I've had very

little problems with anybody."

As a former coach, a major motivation for Cunmulaj being an official is to encourage and help young people.

"When a match is over and a guy walks by with his head down, I'll ask, 'What year are you?' I'll say, 'I didn't do very well as a freshman, either. Keep your head up and stick with it. You're a very good wrestler,'" Cunmulaj said. "Most of the time, he'll pick his head up and smile."

Like most sports, the Michigan High School Athletic Association is in need of more officials in wrestling, he added.

"Some guys are getting ready to retire," Cunmulaj said. "We need to get more younger guys involved, guys younger than me or just out of high school."

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EDUCATION

Continued from Page B2

plaint from a coach or parent throws (other refs) off their game and they feel shaken up. After they feel shaken up, everything goes downhill from there and they keep making bad decision after bad decision and that escalates the situation and parents/coaches get heated when the referees are bad. At the

same time the culture we live in now is ignorant. People feel the need to speak out about anything and everything. Most of the parents yelling have no idea what they are yelling about. Parents are competitive and get way into the game. Instead of enjoying the game and watching their son or daughter run around and play soccer, they just want to win and yell as loud as they can for no real reason.

Q: In your opinion, what

needs to happen for this current situation to be alleviated?

TW: Players, coaches and parents need to be educated. There is a current system in place, but it is a very loose and relaxed system. FIFA and U.S. Soccer has had movements like 'Say No to Racism' or 'Respect the Game.' The English Football Association released a commercial last year about parents yelling at youth games magnifying how embarrassing it is and how

you ruin the entire game for everyone. But not enough is being done for referees. It either has to start from the top at U.S. Soccer or it needs to start from the clubs. Everyone knows that the treatment of referees is terrible. Referees are verbally abused, (and) physically abused in certain situations. But is has become a problem that no one wants to resolve. When an issue does come up about a referee being assaulted, abused, killed, as a referee

community we are aware. MSYSA is aware. But U.S. Soccer, the top dog, is not doing enough to protect soccer referees or educating parents and players. I do not include coaches in that because coaches nowadays have to take a referee portion test/module when they get new licenses so coaches are very knowledgeable on the laws of the game."

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REFEREES

Continued from Page B2

because I love this game. This is a beautiful game.

"There's nothing better than having a kid when he was 10-11 years old and then you get to see him play at 14 or 15 and then you get to watch him play in high school."

Chiming in was D'Agostino, agreeing that "there's not enough referees to officiate all these games. Guys like us, who it's meaning a lot, are doing way too many games than what we should be. We hate saying no; we love doing what we do. But by the sixth or seventh game on a Saturday afternoon, we're exhausted."

But both men acknowledge they need some help on the pitch. Is it ever going to happen?

Winningham would like to see more parents consider give officiating a try, perhaps

even the players as they mature. Doing just that was his own son Tyler, a member of Canton High School's 2011 state championship team.

"I would love other parents, other people, who have worked the game, to come back," Winningham said. "They're just not anymore and the reason is, 'Why do I want to go stand out there and get yelled at for an hour-and-a-half and get belittled by people, when I could be doing something better?'"

"We need re-education and re-commitment to what this game is all about, which is teaching kids life skills."

Basic values

That means people returning to tried and true values such as showing some respect for authority. Also putting cellphones into pockets instead of videotaping every move an official makes — good or bad.

And don't forget good old-

fashioned communication rather than confrontation.

Still, despite honest efforts to reverse the trend, nastiness continues.

"The clubs are doing a much better job compared to a decade ago, communicating what is expected," Winningham said. "But there's no accountability to what is expected."

"So they tell (the parents), don't approach your coach, have a 24-hour rule before you approach a coach about a problem with your son or daughter. Don't yell at the coach, don't yell at the players on the field. Let the coach coach the kids."

"So all of those are great things. But many times, during tryouts when they communicate that at the beginning of the season, once the season begins, all of that accountability goes out the window, it's just a free-fall for parents to say whatever they want to." As the young official found

out first-hand on this particular day at High Velocity, that lowly standard applies to those whose kids are playing for a rec league participation trophy — those who probably never will compete for a World Cup someday.

"We give little \$2 trophies to these little kids that are absolutely meaningless in a weird sense," D'Agostino said. "But it seems like it's so much for these parents."

Inexpensive trophies aside, today's "win at any cost" mentality is something that troubles both veteran refs.

"That's something I just can't understand," D'Agostino said. "I just think it also comes with maturity and age. The younger (parents) tend to be a little bit worse because of the fact they are new to the sport and a lot think their (children) are superstars, that they're going to be playing in the big leagues someday."

"When it all comes down to it, it's just a game."

Win off the field

What's the big deal about 10-year-old kids winning when there are so many other positives to be gleaned from an hour or two on a soccer field?

"That shouldn't be the ultimate goal," Winningham said with a nod. "The ultimate goal should be fun, development of our kids, friendships, developing skills of communication, commitment, hard work and discipline. And it's all about the trophy."

Perhaps what should be doled out instead are those wristbands to respect the game — and each other. They hope it isn't too late for that already.

"Unless some changes are going to be made, I don't see it getting better," D'Agostino said. "I really don't. ... Society changes. It really starts in the home."

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HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Livonia Franklin's Rheault steps down

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

After 24 consecutive years (and 33 overall seasons) of coaching high school athletes, Jeremy Rheault has decided to hang up his whistle and lay down the clipboard, possibly for the last time.

Livonia Franklin's varsity boys basketball coach since 2007 — and a prep coach at some level since he was a freshman in college — Rheault officially delivered his resignation to Franklin athletic director Ron Hammye on March 24.

"I always re-evaluate my situation after every season, just like every coach does, whether it's a winning season or not," said Rheault. "After looking over the list of pros and cons, I decided this was a good time to step away from coaching."

"Although we didn't win a lot of games this season (the Patriots finished 2-19), the kids who stuck it out and played the entire season gave me everything they had. Effort was rarely an issue. What it came down to in a lot of games was that we just didn't match up

Resignation ends 24-year coaching career

well with our opponents." Rheault, who has taught art at Franklin since 1998, started coaching high school athletics at his high school alma mater, Canton, for the school's junior-varsity basketball team when he was 19.

"I was looking into getting into teaching at the high school level, and friends of mine who were teachers told me that it may be a good idea to coach high school kids to make sure you enjoy working with kids that age."

"I've never taught a day as a teacher without being a coach as well, so it will be interesting to see how that goes. The time of this feels right. It's not something I was thinking about at the beginning of the season, but it hit me toward the end of the season."

Rheault's impressive coaching resume includes varsity boys basketball coaching stints at Canton (from 2000-03) and sub-varsity basketball coaching jobs — both boys and girls — at Canton,



Rheault

Franklin and Westland John Glenn.

He also served as an assistant boys track-and-field coach at Canton.

"For a few years, I coached two and sometimes three sports in a school year," he said, referring to the former set-up when girls basketball was played in the fall. "I've coached a lot of athletes; a lot of great kids."

Among Rheault's many successes was a 2010 Class A district championship with Franklin, a division championship with Canton in 2002 and a monumental district-tournament upset of Livonia Churchill in 2014.

"We didn't make the KLAA playoffs in 2010, but we got healthy before the district and won three straight games," he reflected, noting the contributions of Mike Gadsby and Andy McCaffery. "One thing that can be said about most of my teams is that we usually improved as the season went on."

Rheault said he takes pride in the

fact that several of his former players decided to join his coaching staffs after they graduated from high school.

Among the coaching careers Rheault helped spark was that of current Canton boys varsity basketball coach Jimmy Reddy, who started as a freshman coach when Rheault was the varsity head coach for the Chiefs.

Rheault praised the efforts of this past season's group of assistants, including Tom Van Wagoner, Jake Barham, Matt Bowden and Michael Booth.

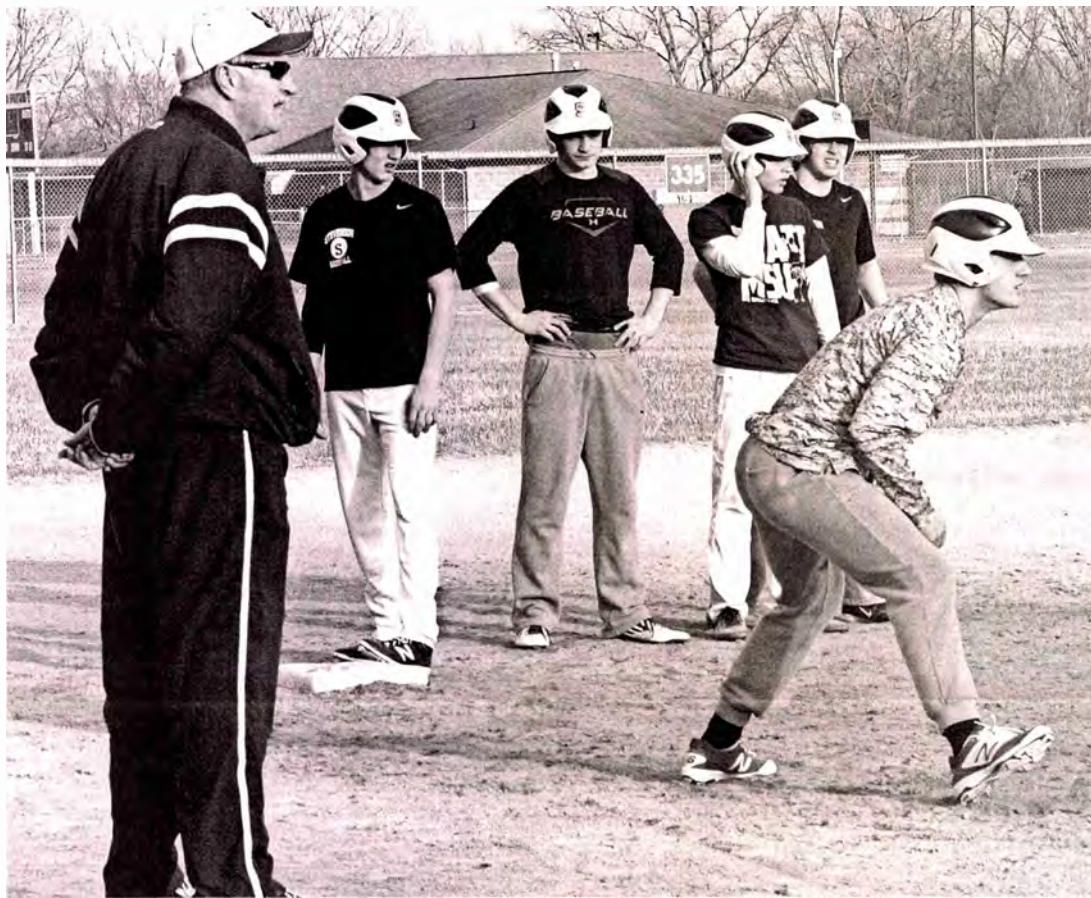
Other former players who have coached on Rheault's staffs include Jeff Poole, Connor Leidal, Adam Monroe, Nick Guest (all former Franklin players), Matt Mair, Kyle Lasko, Jason Silk and Phil Muszynski.

"I always enjoyed the challenge of coaching...the constant thought process of trying to make a team better. I enjoyed preparing underdog teams and watching kids improve over the course of a season."

When asked if ever thinks he'll renew his coaching career, Rheault responded, "probably not."

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HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL PREVIEW



Livonia Stevenson head coach Rick Berryman oversees a base-running drill during a practice last week.

ED WRIGHT

RELOADED FOR ANOTHER RUN

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Armed with an abundance of hard-throwing pitchers, a flowing list of multi-sport athletes and a roster loaded with proven varsity performers, Livonia Stevenson's baseball team is primed to make the spring of 2016 a bountiful one.

But what's new? Winners of four consecutive district crowns and a perennial power in the mighty KLAA Central Division, the Spartans are poised to add to their run of 20-plus-wins seasons.

"We have seven returning starters, including our entire infield, so that's always a good sign," said Stevenson head coach Rick Berryman, when asked about his current squad's attributes. "I think we'll be very solid defensively and offensively. It's going to come down to how we pitch, but it always does."

"We have 14 kids on the roster who can pitch, but you never know how they're going to pitch until the games start."

Twelve of the 20 Spartans play two or three sports at Stevenson — a statistic that pleases Berryman.

"I love multi-sport athletes," he said. "Studies have shown that kids who focus on just one sport suffer more injuries. We have so many kids playing football

Stevenson returns bulk of 24-win 2015 contingent

that we didn't have enough players for a full team. That's a first."

Stevenson's roster is well-balanced with seniors, juniors, sophomores and one freshman — 6-foot, 220-pound catcher/pitcher Bobby Cavin.

Headlining the strong senior class are catcher/pitcher Frank Carlin, outfielder Nick Beers, infielder Joe Dupuie, pitcher/outfielder Nate Bunton and pitcher/infielder Gordon Ferguson.

"Gordon went 7-2 last year, so he'll be our No. 1 pitcher heading into the season," said Berryman. "He hit .404 last year, so he swings a good bat, too."

"Frank caught just about every inning for us last year, but now that we have another catcher in Bobby (Cavin), it will free me up to let Frank pitch. He has a great arm and throws in the low-80s."

"Nick is an outstanding outfielder and will play a lot of center."

Junior Chris Tanderys returns for his third year as the Spartans' starting shortstop. He'll be joined on the infield by slick-fielding first-baseman Mark Pettersson, sophomore second baseman Devin Dunn and sophomore third base-

man Danny Morris, who hit .353 a freshman and led the team in doubles.

Dupuie is a coach's dream — a player who can capably handle all four infield spots.

While the starting outfield is still "up in the air," according to Berryman, the killer B's — Beers, Bunton and junior Dan Bos — will see plenty of time patrolling the spacious area in front of the warning track.

Bos is also slotted as the No. 2 man in the Spartans' pitching rotation following a stellar sophomore season when he went 4-3, but pitched better than his record indicates.

Junior Branden Posky, who missed his entire sophomore year while recuperating from an injury, has looked strong and has a good shot to win the No. 3 slot in the rotation.

Stevenson, which finished 24-15 last spring, will host a Division 1 district in June that also includes North Farmington, Farmington Hills Harrison and Farmington High School.

Berryman's coaching staff includes Mark Wagner, Nate Hoffman, Glenn Scala and Lou Pirronello.

Among the Spartans' early-season games is an April 6 clash at cross-town rival Livonia Franklin.

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BOYS BASKETBALL FINAL

Raiders finish as runners-up in Class A

Top-ranked U-D Jesuit captures state basketball title with 69-49 victory over North Farmington

Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

It was a disappointing finish for the North Farmington varsity basketball team and its fans Saturday after a great run through the Class A boys state tournament.

The Raiders, though they were underdogs to top-ranked University of Detroit Jesuit, had their hopes and sights set on winning it all. But so did the undefeated Cubs, who claimed their school's first state championship with a 69-49 victory at the Breslin Center in East Lansing.

With 11 seniors on this year's team, North made history by getting past the regional final to the last day of the season, finishing with a 24-3 slate and a school record for single-season wins.

"I can't say enough about this group of kids, what they've meant to our program, what they've meant to our school and the North Farmington community," coach Todd Negoshian said.

"They left an impression, not just from a basketball standpoint but a life standpoint on how to behave, how to carry yourself. It goes way beyond the basketball court, and there aren't enough words to say how proud I am of them."

Scoring wizard

Jesuit senior guard Cassius Winston showed the crowd of nearly 10,000 and a television viewing audience why he is the 2016 Mr. Basketball Award winner.

The Michigan State recruit scored a game-high 31 points on 14-of-16 shooting with two 3-point baskets and a free throw to go with nine assists and four rebounds.

"We felt, if we could try to keep Cassius out of the paint, we'd give ourselves a chance to win," Negoshian said. "That's the best I've seen him play in four years."

"I don't know if it was the big stage, the final game, but that's the Cassius that's going to Michigan State. And he was really damn good tonight."

Winston was able to penetrate the lane and scored the majority of his points on drives to the basket.

"This one of those days I knew I would need my best performance," the 6-foot-1 Winston said. "It was going to be my last high school game, the last chance at winning a state championship."

"I had to go out and play my best game. I was zoned in, focused and ready to go. I was scoring the basketball, so my teammates kept going to me."



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Four-year starter Jacob Joubert had eight points, including a pair of threes, six assists, five rebounds and three steals in his final game for the Raiders.

SPORTS BRIEFS

GC volleyball coach needed

The Garden City High School volleyball program is searching for a junior varsity head coach.

For more information or to submit a resume, contact Garden City High School athletic director Rob Phillips at 734-762-8363 or phillir@gardencityschools.com.

Stevenson pom clinic

The Livonia Stevenson varsity pom-pom program will host a clinic Saturday,

April 9, for students who are currently in grades 1-11.

The clinic will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Stevenson field house. Check-in will begin at 8:30 a.m.

The clinic fee of \$30 includes a light snack and T-shirt for clinic participants.

The clinic will be instructed by members of the Stevenson coaching staff and current pom athletes.

For more information, contact Stevenson varsity pom coach Shaylyn Sikorski at stevensonvarsitypom@gmail.com or 248-880-1881.

LJAL needs umpires

The Livonia Junior Athletic League baseball and softball program is looking for individuals who would like to work as an umpire this summer.

Interested participants will be trained and given excellent support. An understanding and appreciation of baseball and fast-pitch softball are appreciated.

The minimum age requirement for umpires is 14.

If interested, send an email to info@ljal.com.

HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS PREVIEW

Patriot netters in position to thrive

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

The unofficial slogan for the Livonia Franklin girls tennis team this spring could be, "Know Payne, Know Gain."

Bolstered by the return of No. 1 singles player Kendall Payne, who has earned a college scholarship in golf from the University of Detroit Mercy, the Patriots are primed to be a serious contender in the balanced KLAA South Division.

"Last year we ended in a three-way tie for second place in the South Division and that was really a good sign," said Franklin head coach Rick Clack. "This year our singles lineup is very

strong with Kendall returning for her senior year as No. 1 singles again.

"I look forward to another solid season."

Senior Carla Yanez will start the season as the Patriots' No. 2 singles player, with sophomore Yasmeen Freeman and senior Emma Fogel earning the opportunity to start at No. 3 and 4, respectively.

"With three or four positions filled by seniors, that maturity level will really help playing the tough KLAA season," Clack said.

In the wake of losing six starting players (out of 14) to graduation, the team's doubles line-up is in flux.

Among those fighting for starting spots are Haley Griffin, Veronica

McAuliffe, Eva Muller, Elaina Homer, Grace Mathews, Ashley Jones, Jenna Polzin, Angela Nelson, Haley Quinn, Maria Lazzarino and Maria Walters.

"It is so early to have a set doubles lineup, but I have a good idea of the top four doubles players," Clack noted. "We will have to see who plays well with each other as the season progresses in finalizing the lineup."

The Patriots' willingness to sharpening their skills has impressed Clack during the early portion of the season.

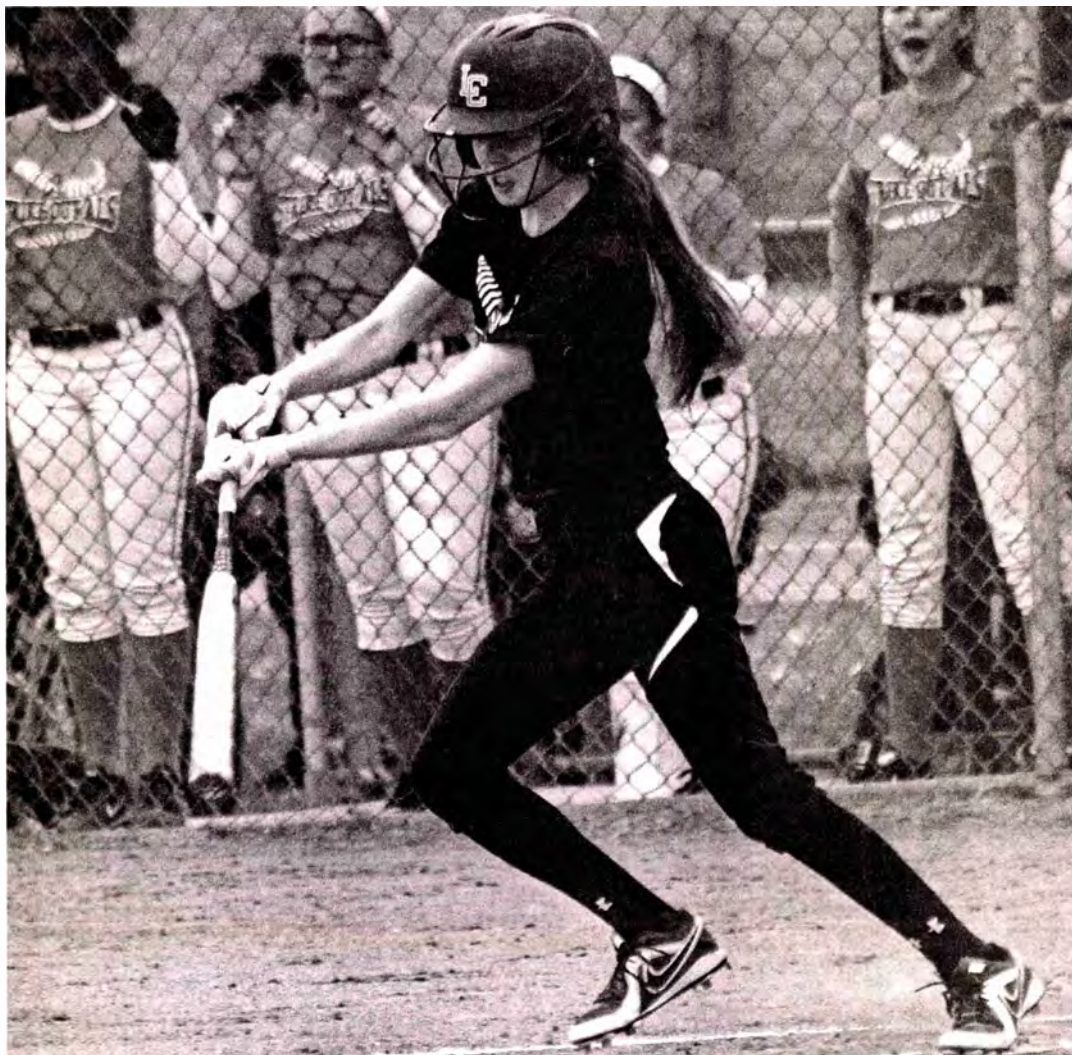
"The team has been very committed to practicing indoors when we cannot play outside," he said. "Their work ethic has been very nice to see."

"This is really a great group to work with."



Senior Kendall Payne returns to give Livonia Franklin a strong No. 1 singles player.

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL PREVIEW



Churchill senior outfielder Elyse Baumgardner slaps a pitch during a game last season.

ED WRIGHT

Positional competition should make Chargers strong in 2016

Churchill ready to battle for South Division crown

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Who's on first?

Thanks to a healthy dose of roster-wide positional battles, Livonia Churchill head baseball coach Steve Gentilia isn't quite sure yet.

But once the Chargers take the field for their season-opening set of games next week, the veteran mentor is confident that his lineup will be potent and productive.

"There's competition at just about every position," said Gentilia, whose team went 19-19 last spring and finished third in the ultra-competitive KLAA South Division. "We haven't had a chance to get outdoors too much, so as far as the starting lineup goes, we're not positive where all the puzzle pieces are going to fit."

"All signs point to us scoring quite a few runs, though. From what I've seen, our offense is going to be pretty good. It will come down to whether our pitching can limit teams to three or four runs and keep us in games."

"I told the girls after tryouts that everyone is going to be competing for starting positions. The key for us will

be to play for the team and not individual glory."

The play of their four seniors — Regan Peyton, Elyse Baumgardner, Erin Carpenter and Angela Lewan — will go a long way in determining how much success the Chargers will achieve this spring.

Peyton is one of three players — freshmen Rachel Klisz and Haley Bennett are the others — who is competing for the starting first-base nod, although each of the trio will see time at first throughout the season.

Baumgardner has early dibs on the center field spot while Carpenter can play both the infield and outfield with equal efficiency.

"Angela has a really good bat, and she'll serve as kind of a utility-player role for us," Gentilia noted.

The Chargers are in good shape in the circle, where junior Madison Christensen and the sophomore tandem of Paige Hanson and Kaitlyn Vinitski will give Gentilia promising options.

"All three are pretty equal when it comes to velocity — they can all throw in the low- to mid-50s on a good day — but they have different strengths when it comes to their off-speed stuff," Gentilia said.

Sophomore Jenna Kwiecinski and Bennett will be given shots to catch

Brooke Hanson — the twin sister of Paige — will contribute dynamic skills wherever she plays, whether it's on the infield or patrolling the outfield.

Junior Colleen McGowan brings intangibles to the team that go beyond the diamond, Gentilia said.

"When it comes to leadership, Colleen is one of the best," he said. "She is always supporting her teammates, telling them, 'We've got this,' or 'Great job!' She's another player who can play just about anywhere on the diamond."

Junior Ashley Bond, whose primary position is third base, showed her plate potential when she blasted a home run during the Chargers' pre-season scrimmage against Garden City.

Junior Jenifer Rousseau is another player whose talent and versatility reflects the Churchill roster, from top to bottom.

"Our division is always tough; in fact, I tell people it's one of the toughest divisions in the state," said Gentilia. "If we continue to work hard, I think we have what it takes to compete with Canton and Plymouth. Franklin should also be improved this season and I know John Glenn has a good pitcher."

ewright@hometownlife.com

MEN'S LACROSSE

Walter set to guide fledgling MU men's lax program

Tim Johnston
Correspondent

With the inaugural season of Madonna University men's lacrosse set for the spring of 2017, director of athletics Bryan Rizzo announced the hiring of Mike Walter as the program's first head coach.

The appointment of Walter rounds out Rizzo's head coaching hires for all eight new sports added to the 2016-17 athletics slate. The Crusaders announced the addition of men's lacrosse, women's lacrosse, men's and women's bowling, and men's and women's indoor and outdoor track & field in August 2015.



"Coach Walter is a perfect fit for Madonna men's lacrosse," said Rizzo. "He is passionate about the game, understands what it takes to be a student-athlete and has strong recruiting ties throughout the lacrosse community."

Walter, now entering his first stint as a collegiate head coach, previously helped build a pair of men's lacrosse programs after enjoying four years of playing experience at the NCAA level.

"I am honored and very excited to be able to start the program at Madonna University," said Walter, who is now serving as an assistant with the Northville varsity boys team. "Starting a collegiate lacrosse program is something I am very comfortable doing after helping oversee a pair of start-up programs over the course of my prior two stops."

"That experience, combined with the great support given to me by the university, will help this program create a culture of success from day one."

Top agenda item

While winning is important to Walter, building character-driven young men remains paramount. "I don't only want to build winners here at Madonna, but good men — men who will be leaders in the classroom, in the weight room, on the field and at home."

Walter most recently helped launch the program at NCAA Division III Methodist University in Fayetteville, NC, spending three years on staff as an assistant coach and offensive coordinator. While at Methodist, Walter had the fourth-best man-up unit in the nation (NCAA DIII) and was in charge of recruiting along the east coast and from Texas to the west coast.

A four-year player at the NCAA level, Walter played his final two seasons of collegiate lacrosse at Ferrum College (Va.) where he was a two-way midfielder.

At the conclusion of his final collegiate campaign, Walter was the recipient of the Mike Walter Senior Award, named in his honor and now doled out to a senior who best demonstrates the qualities of unselfishness as a player, desire, hustle and the ability to develop team camaraderie.

The successful collegiate men's coach also spent time running summer camps for the United States Naval Academy and was the interim coach for Methodist women's lacrosse during the 2013 season. During the summer of 2014, Walter was in charge of the Carolina Hilltoppers, one of North Carolina's elite men's lacrosse teams.

Tim Johnston is sports information director at Madonna University.

OCELOTS

Continued from Page B1

defense."

Gerou's work in the circle was outstanding in Game 2. She allowed eight hits and two earned runs without walking a batter and fanning two.

Schoolcraft overcame an early 2-1 lead, tying the contest up in the fourth on a squeeze bunt by freshman outfielder Alaina DeFrain (Livonia Franklin).

That hit scored sophomore shortstop



and captain Katlyn McIntosh (Garden City), who had singled to open the frame.

A four-run fifth blew the game open for Schoolcraft, who loaded the bases on hits by Mackenzie Quinn, Shelby

Shelton and freshman third baseman and Garden City product Kelsie Powell.

A sacrifice fly by freshman Mariah Coleman gave the Lady Ocelots the go-ahead run and Livonia Stevenson alum Cassidy Lipinski, a freshman second baseman, drilled a line drive home run to left-center, opening up a 6-2 edge.

Capping off the big game was a two-run sixth and Schoolcraft (4-9 overall, 1-1 in the MCCA) had more than enough offense to prevail.

In Game 1, freshman pitcher Kerry Prowse threw a complete game and gave up just three runs and two walks

while striking out three.

But the Lady Ocelots weren't able to provide her with much offense in the shutout loss. Powell led Schoolcraft with two hits, with single tallies by Quinn and Caitlin Fitzpatrick.

Schoolcraft will visit Oakland Community College for a conference doubleheader set for 3 p.m. Friday.

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On or after April 1, 2016, ENCORE ENCORE Action, ENCORE Black, ENCORE Classic, ENCORE Espanol, ENCORE Family, ENCORE On Demand, ENCORE Suspense, and ENCORE Westerns will remain on STARZ ENCORE. STARZ ENCORE Action, STARZ ENCORE Black, STARZ ENCORE Classic, STARZ ENCORE Espanol, STARZ ENCORE Family, STARZ ENCORE On Demand, STARZ ENCORE Suspense, and STARZ ENCORE Westerns.

On or after April 12, 2016, NJazzera America will cease its operations and be dropped from channels 143 and 343.

Bright House Networks utilizes a digital video delivery technology known as Switched Digital Video (SDV). SDV is a robust bandwidth management system that makes it possible to offer more digital video programming services than before including new HD channels. To be able to offer more new video services, Bright House Networks will be moving some existing programming services to the new SDV system as well as adding new services on the SDV system.

On or after May 1, 2016, the following services may be moved to the SDV system:

Network	Tier	Location	Network	Tier	Location
CNN East	Standard	27	CBET CBC	Basic	9
ESPN	Standard	29	WDL	Basic	19
Fox News	Standard	24	WDIV NBC	Basic	4
Freeform	Standard	59	WJXZ FOX	Basic	2
FSN Detroit	Standard	32	WBND CW	Basic	5
HGTV East	Standard	48	WYDQ MyTV	Basic	6
TBS East	Standard	36	WPXD ION	Basic	21
TCM	Standard	37	WTVS PBS	Basic	11
TLC East	Standard	43	WWJ CBS	Basic	14
TNT East	Standard	35	WXYZ ABC	Basic	7

These services will not be available on unidirectional retail devices as of the dates noted above. If you want to subscribe to these services, you will need a digital set-top box or tuning adaptor from Bright House Networks. Customers may continue to use their unidirectional retail device and CableCARD to receive video programming other than the programming delivered on the SDV system. Customers who also utilize a digital set-top box or tuning adaptor will be able to receive video programming delivered on the SDV system. Customers will be notified in advance of any other programming changes.

On or after May 2, 2016, Bright House Networks will change the frequency it uses to deliver the following digital channels:

Network	Tier	Location	Network	Tier	Location
WJXZ (FOX) HD	Basic	2.1	WXYZ (ABC) HD	Basic	7.1
WDIV (NBC) HD	Basic	4.1	WXYZ (ABC) - Bounce	Basic	7.2
WDIV (NBC) - This TV	Basic	4.2	WXYZ (ABC) - Last TV	Basic	7.3
WWJ (CBS) HD	Basic	62.1	WYDQ (MyTV) HD	Basic	20.1
WTVS (PBS) HD	Basic	56.1	WADL (ION) HD	Basic	38.1
WTVS (PBS) - Create	Basic	56.3	CBET (CBC) HD	Basic	9.1
WTVS (PBS) - Plus	Basic	56.2	WPXD (ION) HD	Basic	31.1
WKBD (CW) HD	Basic	50.1			

These changes only affect customers who receive programming through a digital ready television with a QAM tuner) and do not have a digital device. Those customers will need to scan their television set to continue to view these channels.

On or after May 2, 2016, Tennis Channel will be available on the Premier Channels tier on channels 353 and 653.

For more information, please call 1-877-985-8318 or visit our website at brighthouse.com

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 2bdrms, updated kitchen w/appliances, bedroom has french door that opens to huge deck in yard, finish bsmt w/room that could be 4th bdrm, GA \$68,000
 Century 21 Castelli 734-525-7900

Home for Sale - In State
 INKSTER Brick Bungalow 2bdrm, Oak kitchen w/stove & dishwasher, Living rm, Fam rm, finish bsmt w/hall BA and wet bar, GA, \$24,000

WESTLAND Hot New Listing
 3 bdrm brick ranch, family rm w/door to deck in yard, all appliances, bsmt, CA, 2 car GA \$55,000
 Goldside Estates, 2003 Bullit, 1,990 sq ft colonial, 3 bdrm, 2 1/2 ba, formal living & dining room, fam rm w/wallf, Oak kitchen w/doorwall to deck, finish bsmt, GA, CA \$150,000
 2bdrms, updated kitchen w/appliances, bedroom has french door that opens to huge deck in yard, finish bsmt w/room that could be 4th bdrm, GA \$68,000
 Century 21 Castelli 734-525-7900

Home for Sale - In State
 INKSTER Brick Bungalow 2bdrm, Oak kitchen w/stove & dishwasher, Living rm, Fam rm, finish bsmt w/hall BA and wet bar, GA, \$24,000

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Building of new homes is increasing.

SE Michigan new housing report shows upswing in building

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

With some late reporting by municipalities in the four-county area, the final total for new single-family home permits issued in 2015 (4,316) across Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair and Wayne counties nearly matched the total in 2014 (4,321). When multi-family activity is added to the totals, 2015 (5,658) saw its best year for permit activity dating back to 2006 (6,962).

"It is very encouraging," said Michael Stoskopf, CEO of the Home Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan. "To have such a strong start to the calendar year. What a difference a decade makes. Now that we're on the upswing, that's very exciting for our builders and I'm sure the citizens of Michigan."

Based on single-family new home permit data compiled by the Home Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan and reported in the HBA Southeastern Michigan Residential Building Activity Report, a total of 603 single-family permits were issued in Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair and Wayne counties in the two-month, January-February 2016 time frame. That's the highest two-month total to start a calendar year since

January-February 2006 (1,025).

Activity was 70 percent higher compared to January-February 2015's total of 354 permits, reflecting in-part the much milder weather this year compared to last. Oakland County leads this year's fast start with 254 new home permits and 162 multi-family permits issued in January-February.

Said Stoskopf of the encouraging news, "No. 1, it's people being employed." Roofers, carpenters, those who lay carpet and others go to work when home building picks up.

"There's people that need to work to do those jobs," he said. Also, the new homeowners begin to think about major retail purchases such as a couch or a refrigerator.

"It's showing up in retail outlets," said Stoskopf, adding, "Typically, new homes have a higher value for the unit because of newer materials" than do existing homes.

That translates to higher property taxes which in turn benefit school systems, he said.

"The more people you have

working, the more service jobs you have. That restaurant on the corner has people working," Stoskopf said. "The other benefit of people working is all the service jobs."

Working people often need a place to go for lunch, he noted, boosting the local economy.

As for lessons to be learned from the Great Recession, Stoskopf notes it's his own opinion people got tied up in thinking "everybody was entitled to buy a home."

His daughter and son-in-law, in their 20s, are now working out what a down payment on a home should be as well as their other expenses. Their question is "What can we afford and figure out the right number?"

He noted there were some predatory lending practices. "If we don't learn that from the Great Recession, we're doomed to repeat it." There are people on both sides of the political aisle now, Stoskopf said, who say home ownership should be unrealistically high, such as 70-80 percent.

Some people either don't want or can't afford a home, he said. There was a housing "bubble nationwide," in the Great Recession, he said, although auto sales were a major factor locally.

"People stop making cars,

they get laid off. It's really auto manufacturing that's the primary driver still in southeast Michigan," Stoskopf said.

Based on the econometrics used in the forecast calculations, the HBA/ASA New Housing Permit Forecast projects a total of 3,087 permits will be issued in the six-month, March-to-August time frame, which represents an increase of 23 percent over the actual permits issued during the same period in 2015 (2,504).

In the midst of that forecast is the projection for May. If the prediction holds, May 2016 would see over 600 new home permits issued in a single month. This would be the first time since July 2006 (718) that permits exceeded that threshold, according to the HBA.

The HBA's monthly new housing permit forecast is sponsored by ASA, asabuildersupply.com, an area business.

Stoskopf also encourages attendance at the April 1-3 Spring Home & Garden Show of the HBA, held at Suburban Collection Showplace on Grand River Avenue in Novi. You can get home ideas and talk to contractors there, he noted.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @248Julie



Stoskopf

Management company needs to earn its keep

Q: Our board is considering a law firm who has indicated that they represent a magnitude of associations, but it is hard to get them to call us back. Our management company recommended them, and says that a lot of management companies recommend them; what are your thoughts on this?

A: Some management companies recommend the same law firm over and over again notwithstanding how well they perform because they have a "special" relationship with them. Accordingly, the law firm doesn't have to work very hard to get clients or, for that matter, retain them, because they know that they have a constant source of referral from management companies with whom they have a close relationship and, in many instances, the law firm will never pursue any claims that the association might have against the management company. You are best advised to consider another management company as well as another law firm who will give you service that you deserve and who need not be complacent in providing you with what you are entitled to when an issue arises within the management company.

Q: We have a Declaration for our homeowners association but, unfortunately, it does not have any provision for amending the Restrictions Section. What is it going to take to amend our restrictions and can the board use its rule making power to impose any new restrictions?

A: Based upon a recent Michigan Court of Appeals decision, the absence of an amendment provision in the original Declaration of Restrictions for a subdivision lawfully precluded the HOA from later amending its Declaration with less than unanimous consent to impose additional restrictions on the homeowners. The court said that the amendment provisions and restrictive covenants and by-laws will be enforced as written and if there is no provision requiring less than unanimity, it will be required. Again, this is something that you should consult with your community association attorney about before engaging on this issue.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of "Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling and Operating a Condominium." He is also the author of "Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track," second edition. Visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Investors

The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have an open forum. Investors will answer questions and offer a market update. Meetings are from 6-9 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the Red Lobster on Eureka in Southgate.

Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to their membership. The Red Lobster is next to 7-Eleven, near Trenton Road.

Any questions or concerns, call Bill Beddoes at 734-934-9091 or Wayne Koehler at 313-819-0919.

Short sales

If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures.

Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum Real Estate, is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m. each Thursday at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon.

Call the office at 248-782-7130 or email june.quantum@gmail.com.

Realtor survey: Suburban homes hold their appeal

Over three-quarters of surveyed households would purchase a single-family home if they were to buy in the next six months, and 79 percent of renters would choose to buy outside of an urban area, according to the second installment of the National Association of Realtors new quarterly consumer survey. The survey also found that confidence about now being a good time to buy is waning amongst renters, particularly in the West — where prices have solidly risen.

In NAR's first quarter Housing Opportunities and Market Experience (HOME) survey, respondents were asked about their confidence in the U.S. economy and various questions about their housing expectations and preferences, including a question on if they were to purchase a house in the next six months, what type of home and in what area would they choose to buy.

The survey data reveals an overwhelming consumer preference for single-family homes in suburban areas. Most current homeowners (85 percent) and 75 percent of renters said they would purchase a single-family home, while only 15 percent of homeowners and 21 percent of renters said that would buy in an urban area.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, says the survey findings call attention to the glaring need for more supply of single-family homes. "The American Dream for most consumers is not a cramped, 500-square-foot condo in the middle of the city, but instead a larger home within close proximity to the jobs and en-

tertainment an urban area provides," he said. "While this is not a new discovery, supply and demand imbalances and unhealthy levels of price growth in several metro areas have made buying an affordable home an onerous task for far too many first-time buyers and middle-class families."

According to Yun, it's time for home builders to double their focus on constructing single-family homes. With millennials increasingly buying in the suburbs — as NAR reported earlier this month — tight inventory and affordability concerns will likely worsen without significant headway made in housing starts in relation to job creation.

Renters lose optimism about now being a good time to buy

Heading into the spring buying season, NAR's survey found that compared to the December 2015 survey the same share of homeowners (82 percent) but fewer renters (62 percent versus 68 percent last quarter) believe that now is a good time to buy.

"A high number of homeowners are expressing that it's a good time to buy and this sentiment is no doubt being fueled by the \$4.4 trillion in housing equity accumulation in the past three years," Yun said. "On the other hand, accelerating home prices and the perceived difficulty in obtaining a mortgage appears to be tugging at the confidence of renters."

Overall, respondents over the age of 65, those living in the Midwest and those with incomes over \$100,000 were

the most optimistic about buying now.

Among current homeowners, fewer (56 percent) believe it is a good time to sell compared to the fourth quarter of 2015 (61 percent). Amidst steep price increases and tight supply, respondents in the West were the most likely to think now is a good time to sell, while also being the least likely to think now is a good time to buy.

Slightly fewer households think the U.S. economy is improving

Among all households in the survey, less than half believe the economy is improving (48 percent), down from 50 percent in last quarter's survey. Renters, those living in urban areas and respondents with lower incomes were the most optimistic.

The HOME survey's monthly Personal Financial Outlook Index of all households has slightly dipped (to 58.1) since December (59.6), but is mostly unchanged from March 2015 — reflecting stable confidence that respondents' financial situation will be better in six months. Currently, renters, younger and lower income households and those living in urban areas are more optimistic about their future financial situation.

Location matters depending on lifestyle

Across all age groups, when asked about their future buying preferences, survey responses were closely tied to each generation's typical lifestyle, with younger buyers

being more likely to consider buying a single-family home. Not surprisingly, renters and younger buyers would for the most part purchase larger homes, whereas older buyers would purchase similar or smaller sized homes.

Highlighting the apparent appetite for some older households to downsize and live in the city, respondents over the age of 65 were the most likely to consider a condo and nearly as likely as respondents under the age of 35 to consider purchasing in an urban area.

Most respondents indicated their preference to stay in a similar area to their current living situation if they were to buy in the next six months. Over two-thirds of those living in rural areas and 75 percent of those living in suburban areas would buy in a similar area. Only those living in an urban area would be more likely to move elsewhere, with a suburban area within 20 miles of the city being the most frequent choice of urban buyers moving to another type of area.

About NAR's HOME survey

In January through early March 2016, a sample of U.S. households was surveyed via random-digit dial, including half via cell phones and the other half via land lines. The survey was conducted by an established survey research firm, TechnoMetrica Market Intelligence. Each month approximately 900 qualified households responded to the survey. The data was compiled for this report and a total of 2,781 household responses are represented.

RELIGION CALENDAR

APRIL CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Sunday, April 3

Location: Trinity Episcopal Church, 28660 LaMura, Farmington Hills

Details: Benefit concert for Farmington Neighborhood House features Wayne State University's Motor City Cabaret. A free will offering and canned goods will be collected

Contact: 248-474-2860; trinityfarmingtonhills.org

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 16

Location: St. Hugo of the Hills Catholic Church, Bloomfield Hills, 2215 Opdyke, Bloomfield Hills

Details: Features Aeolian Chorale, Carlos Seise, tenor, Quinto Millito, baritone, Timothy L. Huth, ars musica doctoris organ, John Sittard, conductor. Presented by the church and Friends of the Opera of Michigan. Free will offering will be accepted

Contact: 248-644-5460

DEVOTIONS, SWIECONKA

Time/Date: Starting at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, April 3

Location: St. Colette Catholic Church, 17600 Newburgh, just north of Six Mile, Livonia

Details: 12:30 p.m. Mass, 1:20 p.m. exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 1:45-3 p.m. silent adoration and Sacrament of Reconciliation, 3 p.m. praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet and a spiritual talk, 3:30 p.m. benediction; followed by Swieconka Polish Easter meal at 4 p.m.

Menu includes ham, kielbasa, potato salad, blessed hard-boiled eggs, beet horseradish, rye bread, butter lamb, salad, babka, lazy pierogi, beets, cheesecake and beverages. Cost is \$15 per person. Meals must be paid in advance. Send a check or money order payable to WSDPAHS, to Laurie A. Gomulka, 32040 Grand River Ave., Unit #47, Farmington, MI 48336. Include number of attendees. Must be received by March 26. Sponsored by the West Side Detroit Polish American Historical Society

Contact: 855-POLONIA; detroit-polonia.org

MOM-TO-MOM SALE

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, April 23

Location: Connection Church, 3855 S. Sheldon, Canton

Details: Shop 100 tables of mom- and child-related items. Strollers welcome after 10:30 a.m. Admission \$2

Contact: 734-397-1777

POMEGRANATE GUILD

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday, April 10

Location: Prentis Apartments community room, at the A. Alfred Taubman Jewish Community Campus, 15100 W. 10 Mile, Oak Park

Details: Judy Galperin will create a Huck-embroidered placemat and will teach the technique. The Pomegranate Guild of Southeastern Michigan studies and creates Judaic needlecraft. RSVP if interested

Contact: Judy Galperin at 248-661-5337

RUMMAGE SALE

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday, April 15

Location: The Salvation Army, located on Main Street south of Ann Arbor Road, in Plymouth

Details: Proceeds benefit the "Older, Wiser and Loving Senior Group." Tables are available to rent for \$20

Contact: Major Colette or Sandy at 734-453-5464

VESPER

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sunday, through April 17

Location: Nativity of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church, 39851 W. Five Mile, Plymouth, April 3; St. Michael Russian Orthodox Church, 26375 W. Chicago Road, Redford, April 10; and St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church, 2160 Maple, Troy, April 17

Details: Members of the Clergy Brotherhood of St. John Chrysostom of Metropolitan Detroit will conduct the services. An inter-Orthodox chorus will sing the responses

Contact: Olga Liskivsky at 248-252-8184; Olga-liss0910@gmail.com

ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY

Our Lady of Loretto

Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township

Details: Scripture study

Contact: 313-534-9000

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. second and fourth Thursday, through May

Location: 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Gary Michuta, author and Catholic apologist, leads a study of Isaiah. Bring your own Bible

Contact: 734-261-1455, ext 200 or on line at www.livoniast-michael.org.

Faith Community Wesleyan

Time/Date: 4-5 p.m. every Saturday

Location: 14560 Merriman, Livonia

Details: This informal class includes fellowship, discussion and question and answers. All ages welcome. Bibles available if you don't have one

Contact: pastor Tom Hazelwood at 734-765-5476

EXERCISE

Time/Date: 6:45-7:45 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday

Location: Clarenceville United Methodist Church, 20300 Middlebelt, south of Eight Mile, Livonia

Details: Instructor Wendy Motta, a seven-year Zumba practitioner, teaches Zumba through drop-in classes. Each costs \$3. Participants should bring water, a towel and wear athletic shoes. For more information, email Motta through zumba.com

Contact: 313-408-3364

FAMILY MEAL

Time/Date: 5-6 p.m. every Thursday

Location: Salvation Army, 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills

Details: Free meal

Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

HEALING SERVICE

Time/Date: Arabic service, 3-4 p.m. first Tuesday of the month; English service, 3-4 p.m. third Tuesday of the month

Location: The Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of Saint Mary, 18100 Merriman, Livonia

Details: The service includes prayers of petition and intercession, hymns, Scripture readings and the anointing of the sick. Offeratory candles are available for a free will offering in the vestibule of the church.

Contact: Rev. George Shalhoub at 734-422-0010 or email Stacey Badeen at sbadeen@tbosm.com

MOMS

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, September-May

Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners

Contact: Ethanie Defoe at 248-227-6617 and Jody Fleszar at 734-658-2463

Dunning Park Bible Chapel

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. first and third Tuesdays

Location: 24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford

Details: MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope.

Contact: Amy at 313-937-3084 or Kristen at 734-542-0767

PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday

Location: Dunk N Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: All Creatures ULC sponsors the service, which is conducted in an informal setting. Pet blessings are available after the service.

Contact: 313-563-0162

PRAYER

St. Edith Church

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday

Location: Parish office, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: Group meets for singing, praying and short teaching. Fellowship with snacks follows

Contact: Parish office at 734-

464-1223

Contact: 734-464-1223

St. Michael Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 6-7 a.m. Monday-Friday

Location: 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton

Details: Praying silently or aloud together; prayer requests welcomed.

Contact: 734-459-3333 for additional information

Recycling

RISEN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. third Saturday of the month

Location: 46250 Ann Arbor Road, between Sheldon and Beck roads, Plymouth

Details: Recycle your cell phones, laser cartridges, inkjet cartridges, laptops, iPods, iPads, tablets, eReaders on the third Saturday of each month. Use the doors on east side of church.

Contact: Lynn Hapman at 734-466-9023

SINGLES

Detroit World Outreach

Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. Sunday

Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford, Room 304

Details: Divorce Overcomers group is designed for individuals going through divorce, those who are divorced or separated.

Contact: The facilitator at 313-283-8200; lef@dwo.org

Steve's Family Restaurant

Time/Date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursday

Location: 15800 Middlebelt, 1/4 mile north of Five Mile, Livonia

Details: Widowed men of all ages may attend the Widowed Friends Men's breakfast. This is an informal "peer" group where men have an opportunity to meet with others.

Contact: 313-534-0399

SONG CIRCLE

Congregation Beth Ahm

Time/Date: Noon to 12:30 p.m. every Shabbat

Location: 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: Sing zemirot (Shabbat songs) and celebrate Kiddush following morning services. Lyrics are provided in transliteration as well as the original Hebrew.

Contact: 248-737-1931 or email nancyellen879@att.net.

SUPPORT

Apostolic Christian Church

Time/Date: 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily

Location: 29667 Wentworth, Livonia

Details: Adult day care program at the church's Woodhaven Retirement Community. Funding available from TSA, AAA 1-C Older Americans Act.

Contact: 734-261-9000; www.woodhaven-retirement.com

Connection Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday

Location: 3855 Sheldon, Canton

Details: Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery for all hurts, habits and hang-ups. Child care is available for free

Contact: Jonathan@Connectionchurch.info or 248-787-5009

Detroit World Outreach

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday

Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford; Room 202

Details: Addiction No More offers support for addictive behavior problems

Contact: 313-255-2222, Ext. 244

Farmington Hills Baptist Church

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August

Location: 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile in Farmington Hills

Details: Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group

Contact: 248-433-1011

Merriman Road Baptist Church

Time/Date: 1-3 p.m. second and fourth Thursday

Location: 2055 Merriman, Garden City

Details: Metro Fibromyalgia support group meets; donations

Contact: www.metrofibrogroup.com; or call Ruthann with questions at 734-981-2519

Fireside Church of God

Time/Date: 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

Location: 11771 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: Fireside Adult Day Ministry activity-based program for dependent adults, specializing in dementia care. Not a drop-in center

Contact: 734-855-4056 or 734-

464-0990; www.firesidechog.org; or email to adm@firesidechog.org

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Time/Date: 10-11 a.m. Saturday

Location: 16360 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: A twice-monthly drop-in Food Cupboard (nonperishable items) is available

Contact: 734-421-8451

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CARTER



LILLIAN MARIE

Age 82 March 26, 2016 Beloved former wife of the late Charles Sr. "Sonny," Loving mother of Charles Jr. (Audrey), Debra, Robert (Laurie), Walter, John (Deborah), Kathleen (John) Slone, Patricia, Bonnie (Daniel Jenkins) Carter-Jenkins and Tina (Eric) Jenkins. Proud grandmother of 16 and great-grandmother of 12. Also survived by dear siblings Florence (Thomas) Eastin, Madeline (the late Edward) DiBartolomeo, Roberta (the late Donald) Ciavone, Richard Peters, Carolann (Norman) Techow, Earl (Terri) Peters, Linda (the late Ronald) Jahias and Calvin (Karen) Peters. Memorial gathering Saturday 12 noon until time of service, 4 pm at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile Rd. in Livonia. www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

DAGG



JACK

Age 88. Beloved husband of Peggy. Dear father of Jack, Jann, Jill (Robert) Forbes, Jeanne (Dale) Marble, Jeff (Cecilia), Jennifer, John (Laura), James (Elena), Julian (Rob) Joy, Josh (Hannah), and Jerome (A.J.) Ureel. Grandfather of 21. Great-grandfather of three. Dear brother of Laura, Jean Dupont and Ronald E. Dagg. Also leaves faithful companion, Jogg. Visitation Wednesday 3-8 p.m. at Charles Steep Funeral Home, 18425 Beech Daly Rd. (between 6 and 7 Mile) in Redford. Memorial Service Thursday 11 a.m. at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. 6 Mile Rd. Redford (E. of Beech Daly Rd.). Interment (East Lakes National Cemetery. Condolences to Charlessteepfuneralhome.com.

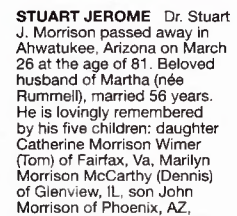
DIAMOND



KEVIN PATRICK

March 28, 2016 Age 28 of Dearborn Heights Beloved son of Richard Diamond and Colleen Haggerty. Dear brother of Caitlin (Steven Pauley) Diamond. Loving nephew of David (Joyce) Diamond, Paula (the late Tom) Mies, Tim (Cathy) Diamond, Edward Haggerty, James Haggerty, the late Patricia and the late Michael. Also survived by many cousins and niece Sofia. Kevin proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy. Funeral Friday, 10:30 a.m. from the chapel of the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, 7707 Middlebelt (at Ann Arbor Trail). His family will receive visitors Thursday, 2-9 p.m. Share a "Memorial Tribute" with the family at griffinfuneralhome.com.

MORRISON



STUART JEROME

Dr. Stuart J. Morrison passed away in Ahwatukee, Arizona on March 26 at the age of 81. Beloved husband of Martha (née Rummell), married 56 years. He is lovingly remembered by his five children: daughter Catherine Morrison Wimer (Tom) of Fairfax, Va, Marilyn Morrison McCarthy (Dennis) of Glenview, IL, son John Morrison of Phoenix, AZ, Mary Morrison of Rochester, MN and Carolyn Morrison of Scottsdale, AZ. He was adored by his grandchildren Rachel and Thomas Wimer, Collin Globig Morrison, Morgan Swanson and Ryan and Jack McCarthy. He was born in Parkhill, Ontario on October 2, 1934. He graduated from The University of Guelph and started his life's work as a veterinarian in Detroit. He was the proud owner of Morrison Animal Hospital in Garden City, Michigan for more than 30 years. A private celebration of his life will be held with family and friends. In lieu of flowers, and to honor the love he had for his black labradors, memorial donations may be made to Guiding Eyes for the Blind, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides guide dogs to people with vision loss, as well as service dogs to children with autism.

SANDERSON



NANCY J.

Age 75 passed away peacefully on March 28, 2016 at Rivergate Terrace nursing home in Riverview. Nancy was born October 12, 1940. Beloved daughter of the late Carl & Shirley (nee: Burkholder) Buchholz. Loving mother of Pamela (David) Balfour of Garden City, Mark Larive of Waterford and Sandra (Scott) Downer of Palatine, IL. Cherished grandmother of Jonathan, Jarred, Kendall and Evan. She was the oldest of four children: the late Joan Mulligan, the late Carol Buchholz and is survived by her brother, Carl (Nancy) Buchholz. She was a loving aunt, special friend and doting owner to many furry friends. Nancy grew up in Dearborn and graduated from Edsel Ford High School in 1959. She married, raised her family, and lived throughout the Michigan area. She lived in Florida for 16 years and later returned to Garden City. She held a long career in insurance, real estate, interior decorating and certified nursing care. She loved all family/social gatherings. Her passions included cooking, gardening, music, shopping, card playing, sketching and being near the water. Her energy and enthusiasm will be greatly missed by all whose life she touched. In lieu of services and flowers, memorials can be made in Nancy J. Sanderson's name to the American Cancer Society at cancer.org/donate.

SCHREIER



BARBARA HIRSCH

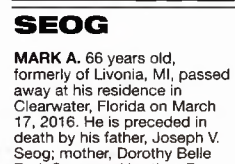
81, of Ann Arbor, died March 27, 2016. She was a graduate of Cleveland Heights High School and Ohio State University. Barbara taught English as a Second Language for decades, the last 15 years at Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County, positively influencing the lives of hundreds of immigrants to the U.S. She was also active in many organizations including AAUW and the Jewish Cultural Society. She was the cherished mother of Eric (Jaki) Schreier, Jordan (Shelly) Schreier, and Barry (Tom Birkenholz) Schreier. Loving grandmother of Alayna, Rebecca, Haley, Abraham, Mallory, and Brooklyn Schreier. Friend of her former husband, the late Leonard Schreier, M.D. Ms. Schreier was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Sara Hirsch. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Barbara Schreier Citizen Education Endowment Fund at Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County (jfsannarb.org), or a charity of your choice. SERVICE 2:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY AT TEMPLE BETH EMETH OF ANN ARBOR. ARRANGEMENTS BY THE IRA KAUFMAN CHAPEL, 248-569-0020.

SEOG

MARK A. 66 years old, formerly of Livonia, MI, passed away at his residence in Clearwater, Florida on March 17, 2016. He is preceded in death by his father, Joseph V. Seog; mother, Dorothy Belle Burk Seog; and brother, Bruce H. Seog all of Livonia, MI. Mark is survived by his son, Mark A. Seog of Leonard, MI; grandson, Zachary Seog; brother, William Seog (Wanda) of South Lyon, MI; brother Greg Seog of Tilton, New Hampshire; sister, Donna Clayton (Don) of New Bern, North Carolina; and sister, Lori Seog of Franklin, NH. Arrangements were handled by The Neptune Cremation Society, Clearwater, FL. Mark will be placed with his parents and brother at a future date. The family requests any memorial donations be made to a charitable organization of your choice.

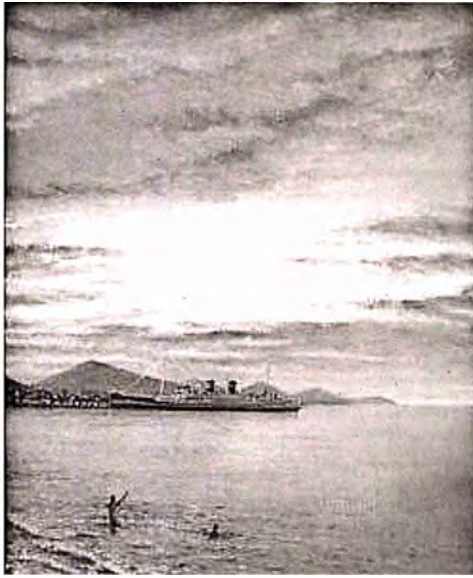
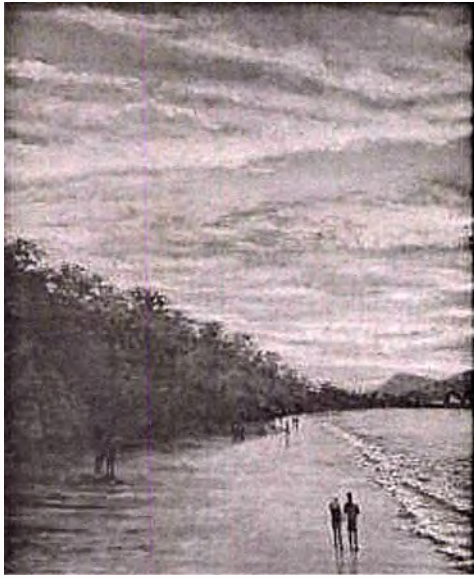
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The photograph of a sunset, taken during a friend's vacation, inspired this triptych, "Hawaiian Air," by Robert Aikins. It features a Hawaiian Airlines 1935 Sikorsky S-43 flying boat.

Artist combines history, detail in aviation paintings

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Before Robert Aikins puts brush to canvas, the Farmington Hills artist opens his history books.

"It's research. I'm sitting in my studio and looking at books, a couple of hundred aviation books," said Aikins, whose detailed aircraft paintings resemble photographs.

"Aviation art is a specialty-type thing. People who like aviation art, they want details. Are you telling the right story? Are you showing it (the airplane) in the right part of the world?"

When he was chief designer for Ford Motor Company, Aikins made sure images showed vehicles as sellable and in the best possible light. Now 16 years into retirement, Aikins strives for realism in his aviation paintings.

"When you're doing aviation art, you're trying to represent something that appeared in history," he said, adding that a dirty or weathered-looking airplane may be acceptable in a scene. "People are more interested in authenticity."

Aikins is flying high these days as an artist with some 200 oil paintings focused on airplanes, both in the sky and on the runway.

His work will be on exhibit during Farmington Hills' Festival of the Arts, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. April 14-15 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 16 at the Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Aikins is a former artist-in-residence for the community.

He also has an upcoming exhibit of 24 paintings at Dean Sellers Buick GMC, in Farmington Hills.

"That is a first for me to exhibit in a dealership," said Aikins, who worked in automotive design for 35 years.

Three of his paintings will be shown June 1-July 25 during an aviation art exhibit at the



"Showtime," a 29-by-35-inch oil painting on canvas by Robert Aikins is a previous American Society of Aviation Arts competition winner. It shows a WACO biplane viewing aerobatics at the 2007 Columbus, Ohio air show.



Robert Aikins, an artist from Farmington Hills, will be the guest speaker Monday, April 4, at Three Cities Art Club in Canton.



"Flightline," showing planes on display at the 2005 Thunder Over Michigan air show at Willow Run Airport, will be on display June 1-July 25, at the James C. Weston Gallery at the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo.

James C. Weston Gallery at the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo.

His work also is on display at the National Naval Aviation Museum, the San Diego Air & Space Museum, the Gallery at Baltimore Washington International Airport, the Kalamazoo Air Zoo and the National Museum of the Mighty Eight Air

Force. He'll be the guest speaker at Three Cities Art Club, 7-9 p.m., Monday, April 4, in the lower level of Canton Township Hall, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, south of Cherry Hill Road, in Canton. The event is free.

"This is the sixth art club I've been invited to," he said. "I let them know there is another

form of art out there. And some of the things we talk about with oil paint technique might help them in their own paintings."

Self-taught in oils

Aikins, who is married and has two adult sons, worked with watercolor, gouache and other media while studying

industrial design at the Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles, Calif. He didn't use it at school nor on the job.

"Everything in the automotive industry is based on a timeline. Painting for fun is the opposite. I don't care when it's done," he said.

"Oil painting takes a long time to dry and the way I work in oils is almost like watercolor. I put in thin washes and let it dry and then add another color or two. I've had no official training in oils. I read a book."

He tried oil paints because they represented "a challenge" and they offered brilliant colors. Aikins, looking for a creative outlet in retirement, bought a book on oil painting and a book on drawing aircraft "like a pro."

"I still loved airplanes and I wanted to see if I could paint them."

As a youngster, growing up in Washington D.C., Aikins had spent many hours building model airplanes and entering contests. He eventually swapped out airplanes for cars and won several design scholarships. He credits his father, a World War I airman for inspiring his interest in aviation.

Today, inspiration comes from attending air shows, from photographs that friends send him, photos he takes, from watching a beautiful sunrise or sunset, or talking with men who flew during World War II. Sometimes he gives the veterans his completed paintings.

"There's nothing greater than seeing the joy of a guy in his 80s or 90s get something like that."

For more about the Three Cities Art Club call Marilyn Meredith at 313-231-3939 or email to marilynmeredith@wow-way.com. Visit Aikins' website at aikinsaviationart.com.

sdargay@hometownlife.com
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Trinity House Theatre class teaches improvisation

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Gloriann Curley and Laura Gumina will teach a six-week improvisation workshop for students, ages 9-18, beginning April 11 at Trinity House Theatre in Livonia.

Curley of Garden City, is an English teacher at a private school in Canton. She taught drama for three years at a Detroit middle school and has been involved in the

Detroit Creativity Project's program that teaches improv to students in Detroit.

Laura Gumina of Farmington Hills has acted, directed and taught theater for more than 30 years throughout southeastern Michigan. She also has taught improv classes at



Curley



Gumina

Trinity House Theatre.

Curley said all ages will work together as an ensemble. The workshop, which will run 4-6 p.m. Monday and Thursday, will include games and scene work designed to help students think on their feet.

Curley said she watched her students in Detroit be-

come less self-conscious and more confident in their interactions with others after they began learning improvisation skills.

"One of the shyest kids I had got the confidence on stage to go on and attend a special improv camp," Curley said, adding that the student was one of only 20 improvisers selected for the program.

"And improv is a creative outlet. One fun thing about it

is that it's purely imagination, and students don't always get that any more. They'll learn the constructs of the games...and right away we'll have them jumping in to create their own scenes."

Students will perform for family and friends at the end of the six weeks.

Cost is \$120. For more information call Gumina at 313-614-2406 or email to glorianncurley@gmail.com.

GET OUT! CALENDAR

ANIMALS

DETROIT ZOO

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through March 31; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. beginning April 1

Location: 1-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak

Details: Admission is \$14 for adults 15-61, \$10 for senior citizens 62 and older, and for children ages 2-14; children under 2 are free. Parking for cars and vans is \$5. Detroit Zoological Society members get free admission and parking

Contact: 248-541-5717

ARTS AND CRAFTS

CITY GALLERY

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, through April 8

Location: Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: "Night and Day" exhibit features new work, including landscape and portraits of other local artists, by Taurus Burns

Contact: 248-473-1859

FARMINGTON HILLS CITY HALL

Time/Date: Through April 22

Location: 31555 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Works by local artists Pamela Alexander and Susan Warner

Contact: 248-473-1859

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: Exhibit hours are noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 1-30

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: The exhibit features the personal work of the late Richard Rochon, who was known in the field of architecture for his renderings of buildings. Includes a reception, 6-9 p.m. Friday, April 1

Contact: 248-344-0497 or www.NorthvilleArtHouse.org

U-M MUSEUM OF ART

Time/Date: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. through May 29

Location: 525 S. State Street, Ann Arbor

Details: First U.S. exhibition of Chinese artist Xu Weixin focuses on portraits of Chinese coal miners and of Chinese historical figures during the Cultural Revolution

Contact: 734-764-0395; umma.umich.edu

FILM

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, March 31, 7 p.m. and 9:20 p.m. Friday, April 1, and 4:25 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, April 2-3

Location: 760 Penniman, Plymouth

Details: "Joy," \$3

Contact: 734-453-0870; www.penntheatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. April 1 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. April 2

Location: 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Avenue in Detroit

Details: "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers," \$5

Contact: 313-898-1481; redfordtheatre.com

FUNDRAISERS

GIVING HOPE

Time/Date: 6:30-9 p.m. April 13

Location: Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center, 8768 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth

Details: The "Giving Our All for Family, Fun and Fitness" event, presented by Giving Hope Women's Giving Circle, includes food, a cash bar, shopping, a fashion show from local shops and boutiques, a raffle and a silent auction. Admission is \$35 and pre-registration is required. Proceeds from the event will help bring ShapeDown, a family weight management program to the greater Canton and Plymouth area

Contact: cantonfoundation.org

For a complete listing of Get Out! visit www.hometownlife.com

Transform traditional dishes with seafood

Now more than ever, food choices matter. People want healthy, environmentally-friendly foods without sacrificing flavor. Substituting the traditional protein in your favorite dishes with seafood is one delicious way to satisfy these demands.

Seafood offers numerous health benefits. It's high in protein, omega-3 fatty acids and essential vitamins and minerals, but low in saturated fat and calories.

When it comes to the environment, seafood offers an advantage as well — it's the most environmentally friendly of all the animal proteins. In a comparison of environmental costs, wild-capture fisheries have a miniscule cost compared to foods such as beef, chicken, pork and dairy.

Changing up traditional meals to incorporate seafood is easier than you may think. Just pick a non-seafood protein dish that you regularly enjoy, and replace the protein with seafood. For example, replace veal in veal Parmesan with cod or the chicken in chicken Marsala with flavorful Alaska salmon.

Find more easy, meatless recipes and inspiration at wildalaska-seafood.com.

COD PARMESAN WITH ZUCCHINI NOODLES

Serves: 4
Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes

2 medium zucchini (5-6 ounces each), thinly sliced
1 tablespoon unsalted butter
1 teaspoon olive oil
salt and pepper, to taste
½ cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
1 ½ tablespoons mayonnaise
1 teaspoon lemon juice
¼ teaspoon dried basil
¼ teaspoon dried oregano
¼ teaspoon onion powder
4 Alaska cod fillets (4-6 ounces each)
2 tablespoons shredded Parmesan cheese, divided

In nonstick skillet, sauté zucchini slices in butter and oil just until soft. Add salt and pepper, to taste. Keep warm.

Heat oven to broil setting. Mix grated Parmesan cheese, mayonnaise, lemon juice, basil, oregano and onion powder together. Add salt and pepper, to taste. Divide and spread topping onto the top of each fillet.

Place fillets on foil-lined broiler pan. Broil 5-7 inches from broiler element for 3 minutes, or until top is browned and bubbly. Reduce heat to 300 F and cook 3-5 more minutes. Cook until fish is opaque throughout.

To serve, place ¼ of zucchini on each plate. Top with cod fillet and garnish with ½ tablespoon shredded cheese.



Salmon Marsala

SALMON MARSALA

Serves: 4
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes

4 Alaska salmon fillets (4-6 ounces each)
salt and pepper, to taste
2 cups flour
½ cup olive oil
1 cup Marsala wine
2 cups mushrooms, sliced
2 cups chicken stock
2 teaspoons fresh thyme
2 tablespoons cold butter
4 fresh thyme sprigs, for garnish

Season salmon fillets with salt and pepper, to taste. On plate, season flour with salt and pepper, to taste. Dredge both sides of each salmon fillet in seasoned flour, shaking off excess.

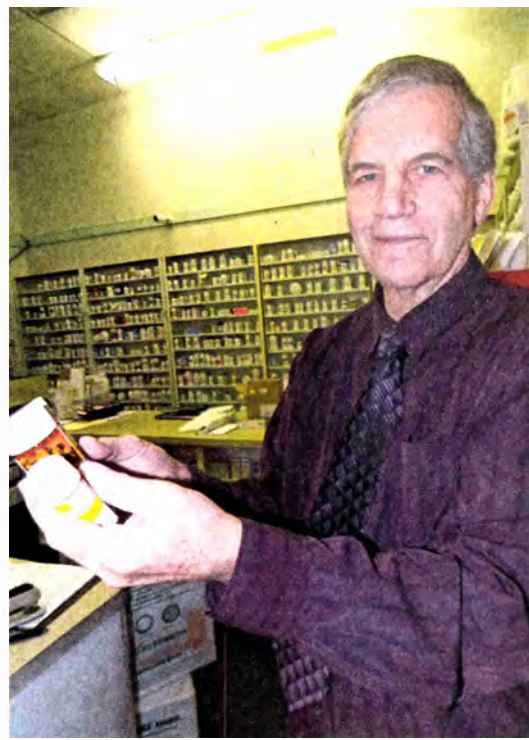
Heat large sauté pan and add olive oil then place each piece of salmon in pan. Cook for 2-4 minutes, turn fillets over and cook until almost done. Remove fillets from pan; set aside. Off heat, add wine to pan, scraping bits off the bottom. Return pan to heat and add mushrooms. Season with salt and pepper, to taste, and cook for 1 minute. Add stock and thyme, and let liquid reduce by half.

Return salmon fillets to pan. Cook, while basting fish, until fillets are heated through. Remove fillets to 4 serving plates.

Return pan to heat, add cold butter and swirl until incorporated and sauce slightly thickens. Remove from heat and divide sauce evenly over salmon fillets. Garnish each plate with 1 thyme sprig, if desired.



Registered dietician and nutritionist Aarti Batavia begins to prepare a vegan and gluten-free sprouted mung bean salad in her Novi Providence Park campus office March 18.



Pharmacist Paul Krause, a vegan, said he believes most people could eliminate their need for medications by changing their diet.

NOT JUST LETTUCE

Vegan pharmacist, dietitian share nutrition tips

Susan Bromley
Staff Writer

Pharmacist Paul Krause doles out medications daily to treat patients with high cholesterol, high blood pressure and other ailments, all while advocating a better, cheaper, drug-free way to stay healthy.

Most customers don't want to consider his alternative, however.

"People come in and I tell them, 'All you have to do is live a vegan lifestyle' and they say, 'No way, just give me the Lipitor,'" Krause said. "A lot of the disease states that occur are results from the way we live. If you switch to a vegetarian/vegan diet and exercise, 80 percent of cardiovascular diseases would go away, 95 percent of type 2 diabetes could be eliminated and a lot of specialists say 80 percent of cancers could be eliminated."

He isn't concerned about what such a change might mean for his business. He said he would happily close his store, The Medicine Cabinet in Southfield, if everyone switched to a vegan lifestyle, which avoids the consumption of animal products, including dairy.

Krause is president of VegMichigan, a nonprofit organization whose mission is "promoting awareness of the health, ethical and environmental benefits of a plant-based, vegan lifestyle."

The group will do that locally through a display April 1 at the Novi Public Library, as well as through Veg-Fest Vegan Tastefest and Expo, 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. April 24, at Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River, in Novi. The event features celebrity presenters, including former Detroit Pistons player and vegan John Salley, as well as samples from local restaurants and bakeries, exhibits with eco-friendly products, clothing, cookbooks, food demonstrations, children's activities and more.

More than 5,000 persons, including vegans, vegetarians and even meat-eaters are expected to attend VegFest.

"We have cooking demos there and people can get an idea of how to transition some of their cooking habits," Krause said. "It's funny how we'll go into surgery and do all these dramatic things to our body because of our lifestyle, but consider it drastic to change our eating habits. It's not a difficult transition anymore."

The Troy resident, 69, made the change himself more than two decades ago after he was diagnosed with a cardiovascular blockage. Doctors wanted to perform an angioplasty. Krause declined, and after research, decided to pursue preventive measures to maintain his health.

Raised on pizza, chips, meat and dairy — or the standard American diet (SAD, as he likes to call it) — Krause set to work changing food habits and reversing the cumulative effects of lifetime consumption of animal products.

It worked.

Food as medicine

As a registered dietitian and founder of Nutrition and Wellness Consulting, LLC, in Novi, Aarti Batavia uses food as medicine to develop individualized plans for patients struggling with allergies, diabetes, weight management and cardiovascular, gastric, hormonal and neurological disorders.

"I believe in food as medicine," Batavia said. "We are what we eat, drink, think and touch. Eating whole foods and consuming more plant-based foods provides vitality and exuberance that we need to enjoy life. Food is not just calories. Food is information for your genes. It sends messages to your DNA, regulates hormones, your immune system, bacteria in the gut, neurotransmitters and even influences mood and behavior."

Batavia believes the three biggest steps individuals can take to improve their nutrition are to eat mindfully, consuming whole foods, more vegetables and less processed foods while enjoying food flavors; knowing that food affects inflammation, and being aware that food speaks to genes.

The biggest mistakes people make about food is thinking of it only in terms of calories; assuming that foods promoted as "low-fat" or as "diet" are healthy; eating quickly on the go without savoring food; and assuming that food is not related to mood.

Decrease meat, fish and eggs

Batavia, a vegetarian, suggests turning to beans and whole grains as protein sources. Animal products have vitamins and minerals, but lack antioxidants that are crucial in preventing free radicals from damaging cells through a process called oxidation. Antioxidants are present in fruits and vegetables.

"If you are consuming animal-based proteins, be sure that it is antibiotic and hormone-free," she said. "The antibiotics used in animal farming do have an impact on our gut bacteria and the hormones can play as endocrine disruptors in our bodies."

Krause admits that switching from meat and dairy products to a plant-based diet can be challenging. But he notes the human species "is very adaptable." Buying fruits and vegetables



Aarti Batavia's sprouted mung bean salad.

SPROUTED MOONG BEAN SALAD

Recipe developed by Aarti Batavia MS, RDN, CLT, CFSP, IFMCP.
Prep time: 15 minutes
Total time: 25 minutes
Servings: 2

1 cup sprouted moong beans
1 small diced carrot
1 small diced cucumber
½ cup diced apple
½ cup halved grapes
½ cup blueberries
1 tablespoon pumpkin seeds
¼ teaspoon black pepper powder
¼ teaspoon cumin powder
¼ teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons lime juice
1 tablespoon finely chopped cilantro (optional)

In a bowl add sprouted moong beans, diced carrots, cucumbers, apples and blueberries.

Add pumpkin seeds, black pepper powder, cumin powder, salt and add freshly squeezed lime juice.

Mix all the ingredients and garnish with cilantro.

Serve in a bowl and savor the flavor!

Variations:

- » Add tomatoes and avocado.
- » Instead of fruits, add onions, tomatoes, olives
- » Add a variety of beans either sprouted or cooked or from a can (rinse canned beans)
- » Add ¼ teaspoon chili powder if you enjoy spicy foods

also can be less costly than buying meat.

Helping picky eaters

How can parents convince their children to enjoy eating vegetables? Batavia suggests a shopping trip to the produce section of the market where youngsters can select a few fruits and vegetables. She said not to force them to eat, but to create positive experiences around food and to be a good role model.

"You can't ask your kids to eat fruits and veggies while you're sitting with a bag of chips watching the television," she said.

To learn more, go to vegmichigan.org and aartibatavia.com.

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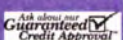
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